MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Political Developments — The Amal Movement is "on the verge" of endorsing a "greater jihad" against Israel if the latter does not totally withdraw from the south, Amal leader Nabih Birri declared in a statement reported by Beirut radio. Birri's statement, made in response to Israeli actions against residents and the economy of southern Lebanon and [illegible]al officials, declared that Israel's detention on 11 and 12 January of "leaders of the movement" brings Israeli forces "to the mouth of the volcano," the radio added.

The radio also reported a statement by the "all-out civilian resistance against Israel" warning "those who are trying to foil" the Lebanese security plan of the consequences of their actions and asserting that any delay in implementing the plan "will expose the south to grave dangers in the event Israel effects a partial withdrawal."

In another development, special envoy Donald Rumsfeld met with Foreign Minister Elie Salim and then departed for Syria for talks to "pave the way for the tripartite meeting of the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers" to be held in Casablanca on 16 January, Beirut radio disclosed. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt left Damascus for Moscow, according to Damascus Radio.

Security Situation — The Egyptian official in charge of his country's interests section in the French Embassy was fired on by unidentified gunmen in Beirut but escaped unharmed, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Elsewhere in the city a bomb exploded in a vehicle parked near a Lebanese Army barracks, while several parts of the city, including the port area and a French position, were subjected to shelling, Beirut radio stated. Artillery fire was also directed at Army positions in the mountain region, with Suq al-Gharb receiving particularly concentrated shelling, according to the radio.

Three Israeli soldiers were seriously wounded when an IDF convoy was ambushed south of the Az-Zahrani River, Jerusalem radio announced, and in Sidon a mine exploded when hit by an IDF armored personnel carrier, causing no casualties.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Revolutionary Council approved the Central Committee's decision on the Palestinian relationship with Egypt and affirmed that the subject should be dealt with by the committee formed by the Central Committee and in accordance with the latter's "guidance on political movement." This came in a statement released by the Revolutionary Committee 11 January at the conclusion of its meeting in Tunis. As earlier reports had indicated, the statement, which was broadcast textually by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, endorsed the Central Committee's position supporting PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, expelling 10 Fatah dissident "putschists" from the movement, and condemning Syria and Libya for their "plot" against the Palestinian people and the PLO. The statement also touched on relations with Jordan, approving the Central Committee's formation of a committee to pursue the subject. On the new Jordanian Parliament and its amendment of the Jordanian Constitution, the statement said the council "adheres to the Jordanian Government's interpretation" of these steps as "sheer internal legal measures" and hopes they will "have no political connotation" that would conflict with the PLO's position as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Syria

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe left Damascus on 12 January after final meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Damascus radio and television. The radio reported that Howe held a departure press conference at which he noted the importance of Syria's role in the region and stated that the Syrian and British viewpoints on Lebanon's independence "are in harmony.".

Islamic Conference

Islamic foreign ministers began meeting in Rabat on 12 January to prepare for the Fourth Islamic Conference Organization Summit to be held in Casablanca on 16 January, Rabat radio announced. The radio broadcast the meeting's opening session live and later reported that the ministers held a closed session.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Islamic Foreign Ministers Meet in Rabat

Agendas, Participants Noted

LD121344 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Rabat, Jan 12 (MAP) — It was officially confirmed that the Islamic countries foreign affairs ministers conference that will prepare for the fourth summit is to open this Thursday in Rabat.

Secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Mr. Habib Chatti said that January 12, 13 and 14 will be devoted to the ministerial conference while January 15 will be devoted to welcoming the kings, emirs and heads of state of Islamic countries whose summit conference will open next Monday in Casablanca.

On the other hand, the delegations of Islamic countries led by foreign affairs ministers or their representatives are still arriving in Morocco to participate in the ministerial conference.

In separate statements, the heads of the participating delegations underlined the importance of this event for the Moslem world and expressed optimism over the success of the summit conference.

The first head of state to arrive in Morocco was King Fahd of Saudi Arabia whose country had hosted the third Islamic summit three years ago.

The Saudi monarch is accompanied by an important ministerial delegation.

Meanwhile, it was announced on Wednesday in Riyadh that the eventual participation of Egypt in the fourth Islamic summit will be discussed with all Arab countries during the ministerial conference in Rabat.

The announcement was made by Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal who was about to head for Morocco to attend this conference.

He said that the invitation or the non-invitation of Egypt to this summit "will be a collective Arab position and not a unilateral one." He added that King Fahd in his capacity as chairman of the third Islamic summit will submit a political report on events that took place in the Moslem world during the past three years.

In Kabul, the different factions of Afghan moujahidines (freedom fighters) appointed on Wedensday Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani as their official spokesman at the fourth Islamic summit. Mr Rabbani is expected in Morocco with a seven member delegation representing the different factions of the Afghan moujahidines.

In Tunis, it was announced on Wednesday that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will participate in this summit with a delegation led by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

According to Mr. Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym], member of the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestinian organization has entrusted the Political Department with elaborating a working document that will focus on the latest developments of the Palestinian issue, mainly after the pullout of Palestinians from Tripoli (Lebanon).

Indonesia's Mokhtar Arrives

BK121656 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, who heads the Indonesian delegation to the ministerial meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization countries, arrived in Rabat, Morocco last night.

Minister Mokhtar will from today to 15 January attend a preliminary session of the Islamic summit meeting in Rabat, while the summit meeting itself will be held in Casablanca on 16-18 January.

Vice President Umar Wirahadikusumah, in his capacity as chief of the Indonesian delegation to the Islamic summit meeting, is due to arrive in Casablanca on 14 January.

The meetings in Rabat and Casblanca will have special significance as they will focus attention on the Middle East situation, the Lebanese crisis, the Iran-Iraq war, and cooperative efforts in various fields among the meeting's participants.

Opening Session Reported

NC121716 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT 12 Jan 84

[By Sinan Fisek]

[Text] Rabat, Jan 12 (AFP) — The 15th Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) opened here today with a public ceremony presided by outgoing Chairman Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister.

The ministerial meeting of the ICO, make up of 43 member countries plus the Palestine Liberation Organization, began with the reading of verses from the Koran.

The session opened with a six-and-a-half hour delay at 1630 GMT to allow for the arrival of the delegations. ICO Secretary-General Habib Chatti had said yesterday that the session would open at 1000 GMT today.

Prince Sa'ud is to hand over the chairmanship to Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz.

The delegates will then hear a report from Mr. Chatti, after which the session will continue behind closed doors.

The meeting, scheduled to end Saturday, will lay the groundwork for the fourth ICO summit that begins Monday in Casablanca, 100 km south of here.

Rabat Relays Opening Speeches

[Editorial Report] Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 12 January begins carrying a live relay of the opening of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Rabat. Following the recitation of Koranic verses, the meeting is opened by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Prince Sa'ud begins by thanking King Hassan II for hosting the conference and praises the Moroccan people and government for their hospitality. He says that the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries have a huge task in preparing for the Islamic summit conference, in overcoming the obstacles that stand in the way. He calls for the submission of specific ideas to deal with the problems, asking that the conferees be guided by Islamic teachings which are a beacon for all peoples.

He stresses that there are many important issues at stake. The Palestine question remains the principal focus of attentionn and "we will never rest until the sinful Zionist aggression against our land and sanctities is routed, until the Israeli occupation of Lebanon is ended, and until the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are restored.

"The Iraqi-Iranian conflict continues to disturb and occupy our minds. We are extremely hopeful that an end will be found to this conflict and that the war between the two countries be stopped. This war has caused a great deal of human and material losses without any rational justification or acceptable excuse.

"The situation in Afghanistan and its threat to security, stability and peace demands finding a solution that will give the Afghan people the right to self-determination without any foreign interference in their internal affairs."

In conclusion, Prince Sa'ud thanks the Islamic countries and theICO and its secretary general, Habib Chatti and his colleagues for their cooperation with Saudi Arabia during the past year.

He then asks the Moroccan foreign minister, Abdelouahid Belkeziz to chair the conference.

At 1645 GMT, Belkeziz begins to speak. After thanking Prince Sa'ud for his kind words for Morocco and King Hassan II and Saudi Arabia's work in serving Islamic unity, and also thanking Habib Chatti and his staff at the ICO secretariat, Belkeziz emphasizes the importance of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference.

At 1649 GMT, Habib Chatti is asked to speak. He says that the conference will prepare the ground for the Fourth Summit Conference of the OCO which will discuss extremely important issues. In view of this, he says, the foreign ministers conference provides an opportunity to evaluate past work.

Chatti continues: "Our present conditions do not inspire comfort and reassurance. Conflicts among us continue to impede our course, weaken our abilities and distort our image in the world — indeed, it prevent us from effectively tackling the offensives of our opponents and enemies.

"Undoubtedly, the gravest challenge facing our nation at present is the continuation of the Israeli entity's aggressions against this nation in its own homeland and against its sanctities in Palestine and Jerusalem. These aggressions are becoming more violent, as is known, with the support of one of the two superpowers in accordance with a predetermined plan.

"Alongside this chronic ordeal represented by the Palestine question [words indistinct], Lebanon has witnessed another ordeal: The Israeli invasion forces swept its lands with bestiality and barbarism with no parallel in contemporary history. Lebanon continues to suffer from bloody, tragic conditions over many years.

"In this regard, I must praise His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal for his successful efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis. Saudi diplomacy has thus scored a success for which it deserves all praise in regard to the events witnessed by Lebanon in particular and the Middle East region in general. Saudi diplomacy has seriously and effectively helped to bring about the start of a dialogue among the Lebanese brothers to find a formula on which they can agree and which will serve them all and their country.

"In this regard, I find it necessary also to praise the steadfastness of fraternal Syria in its heroic confrontation against the continuous Zionist aggression and its firm stand against the repeated American harrassments [mudayaqat].

"We hope the slight improvement in relations between Syria and the United States will continue and will prompt the latter to reconsider its policy in the Middle East.

"Mr President, princes and excellencies: If the Palestine question constitutes the biggest challenge the Islamic nation is facing at present, our Islamic world has been disturbed also by other major conflicts including the continued Iraqi-Iranian war which has worsened, as is known to all, in a manner which has aroused feelings of sorrow and sadness and continues to do so in the hearts of the Islamic nation. "Today we see the war continuing despite all the sincere efforts exerted by the Islamic peace committee. Hopes are pinned on this forthcoming Islamic summit conference to stop the bleeding and to reach a settlement acceptable to both sides.

"There are also the sons of the Muslim Afghan people who are suffering from tribulations and ordeals that have been imposed on them. They are fighting a bitter battle against those who occupied their land. Thus, by their steadfastness in this battle, they have won the admiration and appreciation of the world

"With regard to the Cyprus question, the time has come to solve it in a manner which will guarantee the rights of the Turkish Cypriots and their interests and save them from the sufferings of the past and from frustration which forced them to take the stand we all know. We earnestly hope that the two sides will resume dialogue under the supervision of the UN secretary general to insure peace in the island, realize its territorial integrity, and insure its independence and nonalignment.

"There is yet another problem which disturbs us. It is the drought which afflicts the African coastal region. This problem has occupied the attention of our organization and continues to do so." Chatti expresses hope that the summit conference will help there too.

Chatti then describes the economic and cultural issues which the Islamic summit conference should deal with. He affirms that the eyes of the Muslim world are fixed on the Islamic summit conference. Following his speech, at 1710 gmt the conference adjourns at which time the live relay ends.

Details of Chatti Speech

LD131315 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerts] Rabat, Jan 13 (MAP) — The preparatory ministerial conference of Islamic countries that opened here Thursday afternoon adopted its agenda late in the evening, stated Mr. Habib Chatti, secretary general of the organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)

In a statement to newsmen at the end of the first session that was held behind closed doors, Mr Chatti said this conference that will prepare for the summit had listened to a report made by the OIC secretary general and had set up three commissions:

The economic and financial commission, the cultural and information commission and the political commission, which, he said, is composed of the heads of delegations.

At the opening of the conference, Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in his capacity of president of the preparatory ministerial conference of the third Islamic summit in at-Ta'if, (Saudi Arabia), called for an objective assessment of inter-Islamic cooperation and for clearing obstacles hindering this cooperation.

The last one to take the floor was the OIC secretary general who first of all expressed his "profound appreciation and respect to King Hassan II of Morocco and chairman of the al-Quds Committee, who has devoted constant and tireless efforts for the glory of Islam and the Islamic ummah (nation)".

He said that the fourth Islamic summit "will look into subjects of paramount importance at this critical conjuncture in the life of our ummah". For this reason, he added this preparatory meeting gives us the opportunity to assess our current situation, review our achievements over the past three years and determine the scope of the challenges which are standing in our way both at home and abroad".

Following are exerpts of Mr. Chatti's speech:

"In the light of this appraisal we must draw up an appropriate plan of action for the next stage of our march. As everyone knows, our situation is no better today than it was during the third Islamic summit. On the contrary, it may be stated that our situation now is regrettably far worse. The crises which existed then are still unsolved. They have even led to further deterioration which is threatening the future of our ummah more than ever before. Thus, our present circumstances give no cause for equanimity. Indeed, the deeprooted differences among us are hindering our march, weakening our potentials and maiming our image before the world. They are even preventing us from effectively facing up to the attacks of our adversaries and our enemies. There is no doubt that the worst challenge facing our ummah at present is the continued acts of aggression of the Israeli entity against our ummah in its own homeland and against its shrines in Palestine and al-Quds ash-Sharif. These acts of aggression are being stepped up, as we all know, with the support of one of the two super powers according to a deliberate plan.

"Along with the unending ordeal represented by the problem of Palestine, which has not yet satisfied the enemies' rancour, there is another ordeal experienced by Lebanon whose territories have been invaded by Israeli forces with a barbarity unknown to contemporary history, Lebanon which has been living for many years through tragedies and bloodshed.

"While the Palestine issue has been the worst challenge facing the Muslim ummah at the present time, our Islamic world has been troubled with other problems. Among these is the continued Iraq-Iran war which — as everyone knows — has reached alarming proportions. It has been and still is a source of great distress to our ummah. It is still unabated, despite all the sincere efforts of the Islamic peace committee.

Therefore this Islamic summit meeting should carry the hopes of the ummah for an end to this hemorrage and for a settlement that will be acceptable to both parties.

The Muslim Afghan people for its part, is suffering terrible ordeals at the hands of invasion forces and is waging a fierce and heroic battle for which it has won the admiration and respect of the whole world.

As far as the Cyprus issue is concerned, time has come to solve it in a way that guarantees the rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriots and delivers our brothers from the tribulations and disappointments they had suffered and which drove them to take the stand we all know about.

It is our confident hope that the two Cypriot parties will resume the dialogue under the auspices of the UN secretary general with the aim of securing peace to Cyprus, realising the unity and territorial integrity of the island and guaranteeing its independence and non-alignment.

Another problem which has deprived our ummah of sleep is the drought in the African Sahel region. As you well know, this problem has received and is still receiving a great deal of attention from our organization. It is therefore natural that the summit should give this problem the attention it deserves with a view to helping our brethren in the Sahel area. The drought is so severe that it has destroyed their crops, decimated their cattle and is threatening their very lives.

"Although our conferences tend to focus on political issues which directly affect the life of our ummah, we also have economic, cultural and social problems which assume no lesser importance. The summit conference will examine numerous questions per-

taining to the development of the Islamic world and to economic and cultural cooperation.

"The accomplishements of the OIC have confirmed that this organisation is apt to be a symbol of Islamic reunion and an appropriate framework for Islamic cooperation. Indeed, all that our organisation needs today is continued material and moral support and renewed confidence in its ability to fulfil its purposes through cooperation with the governments of member states. Such factors will enable our organisation to meet the challenges assailing our ummah from every side and also to show the real strength of this ummah, which resides in its adherence to its faith, unity and solidarity."

Closed Session Held

LD122101 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Islamic foreign ministers conference, which is preparing for the fourth summit, continued its proceedings this evening in a closed session convened immediately after the opening session, which was relayed live by radio.

At this closed session, the conference elected Gabon, Malaysia, and the PLO as deputy chairmen, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was elected rapporteur general of the conference. The conference then moved on to discuss the agenda, which is still being discussed.

Closed Session Ends

LD122342 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Islamic foreign ministers conference ended its closed session in Rabat today. It was convened immediately after the opening session under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz. The closed session lasted approximately 2 and 1/2 hours, in the course of which the foreign ministers approved the Islamic Congress Organization[ICO]secretary general's report and the agenda. This was announced by ICO secretary general Habib Chatti in a statement to journalists after the conclusion of the closed session.

Iraq's 'Aziz Holds Meetings

JN122140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Rabat, 12 Jan (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his place of residence in Rabat today Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting, which took place outside the Islamic foreign ministers' conference currently being held in Rabat, the two sides discussed the most important topics on the conference agenda, particularly that of the Iraqi-Iranian war. Tariq 'Aziz explained in detail the latest developments of the war being launched against Iraq by the Iranian regime as well as the regime's attempts to blackmail international organizations and conferences.

Tariq 'Aziz also met in his place of residence with ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti and reviewed with him the agenda of the fourth Islamic summit, particularly the article on the Iraqi-Iranian war and the Iranian attempts to blackmail the international conferences and organizations.

Tariq 'Aziz also received today Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz and discussed with him Morocco's preparations for the convocation of the Islamic summit conference and the most important topics on the agenda. 'Aziz also discussed with YAR Foreign Minister Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi the most important agenda topics, particularly the one on the Iraqi-Iranian war and its developments.

Kuwaiti Representative Holds Talks

LD121449 Kuwait KUNA in English 1346 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Rabat, Jan 12 (KUNA) — Kuwait Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad held intensive contacts here Thursday with a number of Arab foreign ministers attending the preparatory meetings of the fourth Islamic summit, KUNA learned.

Diplomatic sources told KUNA that the chief Kuwaiti diplomat held talks with the foreign ministers of Bahrain, Oman Sultanate and Saudi Arabia, respectively — Sheikh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifa, Yusuf al-Alawi 'Abdallah and Sa'ud al-Faysal — (?in addition) to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Habib Chatti. The sources added that the talks dealt with the agenda of the Islamic summit in Casablanca, scheduled to start next Monday.

Sheikh Sabah is leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the preparatory meetings due to start later today.

Saudi Representative Holds Meetings

LD121313 Riyadh SPA in English 1228 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Rabat, Jan 12, SPA — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met here today with his Moroccan counterpart Dr Abdel Wahed Belalziz. Later Prince Sa'ud met with Habib Chatti, the Arab League's secretary general. The two meetings concentrated on a number of items placed on the agenda of the Islamic foreign ministers' preparatory meeting scheduled to start here later today. The Saudi minister arrived in Rabat last night to take part in the ministerial meeting, which is set to hammer out an agenda for the upcoming fourth Islamic summit due to start in Casablanca on January 16.

'Arafat Says PNC to Meet in Algiers in February

JN122105 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2040 GMT 12 Jan 84

[From the "Panorama" Program]

[Text] In Tunis, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that the Fatah Central Committee has invited the PNC to convene in Algiers in February. 'Arafat added that

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, with whom he had talks on Monday, emphasized to him that Algeria is ready to host the PNC meetings. In Algiers, George Habash, PFLP secretary general, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, announced that their two movements are still committed to continue struggle and rally around the PLO and the program approved by the PNC in February last year.

'Arafat Leaves Tunis for Algiers 13 Jan

NC131400 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, Jan 13 (AFP) — Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, left here today for Algeria, where he may meet with two PLO faction leaders who were extremely critical of his trip last month to Cairo, informed Palestinian sources said today.

The sources also said Mr 'Arafat would pay a long-planned visit to Jordan after he participates in the Islamic summit in Casablanca, Morocco, from January 16 to 18. He would be accompanied by Abu Iyad, his deputy. The talks would resume a process that was interrupted last April, when Mr 'Arafat refused to allow King Husayn of Jordan to speak for the PLO in talks with Israel.

The PLO leaders Mr 'Arafat might meet in Algiers would be George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayif Hawatimah, the head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Both of them, who have assailed Mr 'Arafat's meeting in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, are currently in Algiers. Any meeting of the three would be the result of mediation efforts by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, the PLO sources said. Officially, the sources said, Mr 'Arafat was to visit several thousand Palestinians released by Israel in November from a prison camp in Southern Lebanon, in exchange for six Israelis being held by the PLO.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Issues Statement

JN121740 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 12 Jan 84

["Text" of statement issued by the Fatah Revolutionary Council following its meetings which ended in Tunis on 11 January 1984 —read by announcer]

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council held its continuous ordinary session which began on 9 January 1984 in Tunis. The Council discussed and assessed the Tripoli battle and the Syrian and Libyan aggression, which coincided with the Israeli aggression, against the Palestinian revolution, the camps of our people in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid, and the Lebanese and Palestinian masses in Tripoli, the north, and Al-Biqa'. The Council also heard a report by the Fatah Central Committee on the general political situation and Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Cairo. The Council also discussed the Fatah movement's internal situation and adopted the following decisions:

1. The Council affirms that the escalation of armed struggle is one of the main struggle tasks in facing the increasing Zionist arrogance and the continuous campaigns of tyranny and suppression against our people.

2. The Revolutionary Council condemns the plot of the Syrian and Libyan regimes against our Palestinian people and their national cause and the attempt to impose trusteeship, tutelage, and containment on the PLO and the Palestinian revolution and to undermine independent Palestinian national decisionmaking.

3. The Council affirms its approval of the Central Committee's decision to expel the 10 dissident putschists, former members of the Council, from the Fatah movement and condemns all the voices of leaderships of Palestinian organizations that participated in taking up arms or instigating fighting against our Palestinian people and shelling the camps in the north and the city of Tripoli. The Council considers these voices and leaderships as agent criminal tools, which were used as a cover for the Syrian-Libyan plot. They thus committed high treason against our people and cause.

4. The Revolutionary Council hails and praises those officers and men of the Hittin Forces in the Palestinian Liberation Army and the elements and cadres of the other organizations who refused to carry out the orders of treason to strike at the masses of our people in the camps of Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid, and the steadfast Lebanese masses in Tripoli and northern Lebanon. The Council also appreciates the stands of those organizations that refused to take up arms against our revolution and people or refused to participate in the plot against the PLO, and who declared their adherence to Palestinian legitimacy and independent national decisionmaking.

5. The Council affirms the importance of national unity, and the need to consolidate it with those organizations that did not take up arms against our people, on the basis of upholding the political and organizational resolutions of the PNC; and the importance of strengthening the unity of our people inside and outside the occupied territory in order to achieve our inalienable national rights.

6. The Council endorses the resolutions that were adopted by the Fatah Central Committee concerning the bases of political moves on the Arab and international levels in accordance with the PNC and Fes summit resolutions and the political program approved by the fourth congress of the Fatah movement —resolutions and programs which affirm our commitment to the achievement of our inalienable national rights, including the right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on our national soil, under the leadership of the PLO.

7. The Revolutionary Council approves of the Central Committee statement of 4 January 1984 on Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo. The Council also approves of the method decided by the Central Committee on the subject of the relationship with Egypt. This subject should be dealt with through the formed committee

and in accordance with the bases of political movement that have been decided by the Central Committee in coordination with the Executive Committee according to the resolution adopted on 17-18 March 1983.

8. Regarding dialogue with Jordan and Palestinian-Jordanian relations, the Council approves of the Central Committee's decision to form a committee to deal with this subject in accordance with the bases of the political moves approved by the Central Committee in coordination with the Executive Committee. The Revolutionary Council also discussed the recent Jordanian step represented by the reactivation of the Jordanian Parliament. The Council hopes that this step will have no political connotation that would conflict with the Rabat summit resolutions which considered the PLO the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. The Council adheres to the Jordanian Government's interpretation of this step as sheer internal legal measures.

9. The Council affirms its rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, considering it a continuation of the trend of capitulatory settlements in the region and subjugation to the U.S.-Israeli peace theory by force. The Council also affirms our movement's stand on the side of the Lebanese people in their valiant struggle to liberate Lebanon and maintain its independence and territorial integrity.

10. The Revolutionary Council greets our Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory, who bravely and strongly defend the national, independent Palestinian decision-making and rally around the PLO and its leadership, considering the PLO their sole legitimate representative that is firmly confronting the plot aimed at ending the Palestine question and liquidating our Palestinian people's national inalienable rights — a plot whose lines were drawn up by the United States and whose implementation wasentrusted to the Zionist enemy, the Libyan and Syrian regimes, and their tools.

11. The Council highly values the stands of the United Nations and both the fraternal and friendly states that supported our revolution and people against the plot of the double siege, particularly those states that offered guarantees and protection for the departure of our forces from Tripoli and that hosted these forces. This also applies to the states that hosted our prisoners who were freed from the enemy prisons in the interior and from the Ansar camp.

12. The Council highly values the stands of the fraternal and friendly states that supported our revolution in its darkest moments during the battles of Tripoli and the north. These states include the Islamic, African, nonaligned, and socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union and the PRC.

13. The Council greets the brothers and sisters who were liberated from the Ansar camp and enemy prisons in the occupied Palestinian territory. It also greets all the brother detainees who are still steadfast in the Zionist enemy prisons.

14. The Council has decided to form a committee charged with preparing for the movement's fifth congress.

Glory and immortality to our innocent martyrs! Revolution until victory!

[Signed] The Fatah Revolutionary Council.

PFLP Linked to 1976 Slaying of U.S. Envoy

NC121202 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, Jan 12 (AFP) — The 1976 assassination of U.S. ambassador to Lebanon Francis Melloy has been linked to a hardline Palestinian group within the Palestine Liberation organization, prosecutors said here.

Closing the more than six-year-old case, investigating magistrate Zuhayr 'Izz ad-Din today called for the death penalty in absentia for Namek Kamal, 29, whose whereabouts today is unknown.

He also requested life sentences for two of Mr. Kamal's associates. All were said to belong to the "Socialist Labor Party," the political wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a guerrilla group belonging to the PLO.

According to the charge sheet, Ambassador Melloy, his economic advisor Robert Waring and their driver were stopped at a checkpoint in Beirut on June 16, 1976 and ordered out of their car by two militiamen.

They were taken to PFLP headquarters, located then in a building opposite the residence Des Pins where French multinational peacekeeping troops are now headquartered. There they were interrogated by Mahmud 'Awadah, head of the Socialist Labor Party, Mr. Kamel and a third man, prosecutors said.

A fourth man calling himself Abu Ahmad Yunis arrived and led the three captives away. Their bodies were found the next day south of Beirut.

Mahmud Awadah was later killed taking part in an attack at Orly airport in France.

Fedayeen Attack Israeli Governor of Nabulus

JN121636 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] In one of the most daring operations by our revolutionaries who are operating inside the occupied homeland, a group of our revolutionaries attacked with machineguns the Zionist military governor of Nabulus while he was riding in his car on the main Nabulus-Jerusalem road in the occupied West Bank. The attack resulted in the vehicle of the military governor being hit. The enemy's exact losses are not yet known because of the cordon the occupation forces threw around the scene of the attack.

In the meantime, reports from the occupied homeland say that the occupation authorities have decided to tighten the security guard on all Zionist military governors in the cities of the occupied West Bank.

'Arafat Interview on Future Palestinain Course

JN121038 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1627 GMT 11 Jan 84

["Text" of interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar by unidentified radio correspondent; recorded — place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar, much is being said by more than one Zionist, imperialist and Arab reactionary side about steadfast Tripoli and about all the conspiracies against it. In wake of the departure from Tripoli, does the brother leader believe that the conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution is over?

['Arafat] Of course it has not ended. We must continue to take into consideration that the conspiracy will continue. [passage indistinct] attempts to establish a new PLO that will replace the legitimate one.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu 'Ammar, you visited Cairo after you left Tripoli at the invitation of the Egyptian nationalist and progressive forces which visited Tripoli, and succeeded in penetrating the siege and reached the Palestinian revolution. Much has been said about this visit. What does the leader of the revolution and of the Palestinian people have to say on this visit?

['Arafat] The truth is that this visit took place in response to an invitation by the Egyptian popular forces and parties which attended the PNC meeting. It is true that the Egyptian popular delegation was the only Arab delegation which came to use [sentence indistinct] came to the Middle East region in an attempt to achieve a cease-fire, to halt the aggression. They came in great numbers to see and become acquainted with and to support the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the Lebanese masses in Tripoli and the Palestinian masses in Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi. The issue, however, must be clarified in all its details. Under the agreement that was reached, we were to leave on board Greek vessels. There were attempts to prevent our being given guarantees or protection. With the help of some of our brothers, we succeeded in wresting a procedural resolution. When a resolution is a procedural one, the United States cannot veto it. We asked that the resolution be a procedural one with respect to an old resolution on a cease-fire [as heard]. In accordance with this procedural resolution, we obtained UN protection in order to give moral protection to the Greek ships. After this we made contacts to guarantee the protection of these ships on the high seas. We contacted several fraternal, friendly, and ally countries. The Greeks agreed to hoist the Greek flag on their ships, the Italians to send a hospital ship to transport our wounded, and the French to accompany these ships as protection. Shortly before our departure, the Israeli air and naval onslaught escalated. Israeli officials made public statements, regrettably, on the same day that Syrian and Libyan statements were made rejecting the departure of the Palestinian fighters. Some of these statements even said that I would not be allowed to leave alive. On the same day, we announced that our departure from Tripoli had been delayed. On the day Israel believed would be the day of our departure, it carried out its air and naval attack on Tripoli port.

We had been in constant contact with President Mubarak since the Egyptian delegation's arrival in Tripoli. In view of Egypt's relations with the world, I asked him to intervene to assist us in guaranteeing some kind of protection as the French had been putting pressure to have some Arab parties participate with it in this protection at sea.

I must say that while I was still under siege the Egyptians contacted me and informed me that they had experted efforts to provide us with protection. They not only did this but also sent their vessels which accompanied me on the high seas until my port of destination.

During my passage in the Suez Canal, the least I could do was to express my thanks. I contacted President Mubarak while I was still under siege asking for his help. Therefore, it was only natural to thank him during my passage through the Suez Canal. Otherwise, it would have been discourteous and incompatible with Arab brotherhood or military honor. That's why I went to thank him. He sent his prime minister, foreign minister, political adviser, and several other Egyptian officials to welcome me in Ismailia.

From this premise, I was dutybound to meet with President Mubarak to thank him. In my talks with President Mubarak I made some clear remarks. Of course, I took into consideration the efforts urging Egypt to remove itself from the Camp David policy and move closer to the Arab nation. In this respect, I would like to recall the PNC resolutions which state that rapprochement with Egypt depends on the extent of its moving away from the Camp David policy. The PLO Executive Committee resolutions issued on 17 and 18 [not further identified — FBIS] entrusted the PLO Executive Committee chairman and the head of the Political Department with the task of following up this issue proceeding from the fact that Mubarak, as Egyptian president, has inherited a heavy legacy and that we have to help him in eliminating this heavy legacy so that we may bring Egypt back to the Arab fold [words indistinct] on the basis that any Arab or Egyptian effort must be within the framework of what the Arabs had unanimously agreed at the second Fes summit conference, the Fes resolutions and the Fes plan. I would like to say here that I found the president very responsive after I had thanked him for his stand, for providing us and our fighters with the protection that enabled us to leave, and for his readiness to use Egypt's influence in all the international forums to support this stand. This must become clear to everyone far and near. Let us speak frankly [words indistinct] that I visited Cairo at the invitation of the Egyptian forces and parties. Everyone must know that this was being prepared for the massacre, of this Palestinian military power [sentence as heard]. Regrettably, while Syria rejected a proposal by the Higher Coordination Committee when there was an Israeli threat to us, there was a proposal from the Coordination Committee that we use Tartus port, which is protected by the SAM 5's, by Syrian military power, and the Soviet Fleet. Regrettably, Brother Khaddam's reply was: No. They must not come to believe that they can use Syrian ports. Let them go and sort themselves out with the Israelis.

[Correspondent] In wake of the 200-hour meetings of the Fatah Central Committee which conened under your chairmanship after your arrival in Tunis, what is the Palestinian trend on the

level of the Fatah movement? Is there an inclination to hold a Fatah congress? If it convenes, will there be a place in the Congress for those who have betrayed the Palestinian national march?

['Arafat] [words indistinct] You may recall that while I and brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Qazir], and brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] were besieged in Tripoli, the Fatah Central Committee met and contacted us by telephone. It made decisions to expel those who have betrayed the Palestinian peopleand the movement and resorted to arms against this Palestinian people and our refugee camps. A decision to expel them exists. Abu Jihad, Abu al-Hawl as well as myself approved this decision by telephone.

[Correspondent] The date for the meeting of the Fatah General Congress had been previously set for January. Has this date been changed?

['Arafat] Of course, it has been delayed as no one expected the Tripoli battles to last more than 140 days.

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister Leaves for Rabat Meetings

GF111012 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 Jan (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah left Manama for Rabat this morning, leading his country's delegation to the meetings of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers conference which will begin there tomorrow, Thursday, in preparation for the fourth Islamic summit conference.

GULF MIRROR Comments on Reporter's Expulsion

GF121104 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 12-18 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] In what is believed to have been an unprecedented move, the Government of Bahrain ordered Mr Geoffrey Spencer, a *GULF MIRROR reporter, to leave Bahrain this week.*

The expulsion of journalists for breach of security regulations is a common occurrence in many parts of the world, but we are particularly saddened that this has happened for the first time in Bahrain, which has always maintained a cooperative and encouraging attitude towards its foreign and local press corps.

We hope that this spirit of cooperation will continue, but clearly the press must now think hard about its future role in reporting incidents such as the tragic one in Kuwait.

We feel, however, that Mr Spencer's expulsion from Bahrain may be seen as an overreaction in light of the fact that he had already been deported from Kuwait and censured on his return by Bahrain's Ministry of Information.

The fact that Mr Spencer's published reports and pictures from Kuwait were accurate and objective indicated that it was possible for the press in the Gulf to carry out its job efficiently within the established guidelines laid down by the G.C.C. governments.

We hope that we shall continue to do so, but we believe there are now certain grey areas regarding legitimate security requirements and the operation of the press, which need clarification.

KUWAIT

Visiting Venezuelan Oil Minister Makes Statement

LD121807 Kuwait KUNA in English 1609 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 12 (KUNA) — Kuwait Oil and Finance Minister Sheikh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah met here Thursday with the visiting Venezuelan energy and mines minister who arrived here earlier today.

Oil sources told KUNA that the two sides discussed a number of issues pertaining to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the means of resolving any future OPEC problems.

The two ministers, the sources noted, also reviewed the present state of the world oil market and the possibility of an increase in demand for oil this year.

In an arrival statement, the Veneuzuelan minister said his country strongly abides by OPEC's pricing and production quotas and denied reports that it intends to demand an increase in its quota of 1.7 million barrels per day.

The minister stated that Venezuela understands conditions market [as received] and of the international oil market and those of the other OPEC members, and therefore does not request raising its production quota. He expected a slight increase in the world demand for oil this year.

The ministers said the organization has the capability to resolve its problems, but did not elaborate.

The minister noted that it was in the interest of OPEC members to respect and abide by OPEC's resolutions for the protection of their interests along with those of the developing countries which receive financial aid from the organization.

The minister, who arrived here from the United Arab Emirates as part of a Gulf tour, described his talks with officials in the UAE and Saudi Arabia as "very significant."

He is scheduled to leave for Libya next Saturday.

PDRY

YSP Chairman Exchanges Messages With YAR's Salih

Receives Unity Message

GF121600 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has received a message from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, on the unity efforts between the two parts and the means to strengthen them.

The message was delivered to the chairman by Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the standing committee and the president's adviser for unity efforts, during his meeting with him today.

During the meeting, a number of issues on expanding and developing cooperation and coordinating relations between the two parts of the homeland, restoring Yemeni unity in the land and people on a peaceful and democratic basis, were discussed.

The meeting was attended by 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Brother Husayn ad-Daf'i arrived in Aden today and was welcomed by 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim.

YAR Official Carries Reply

GF121924 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Husayn ad-Daf'i, member of the Standing Committee and adviser to the president on unity affairs in the northern part of the homeland, left Aden this evening carrying a reply message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland.

ANA reported that the message deals with the unity efforts on cooperation and coordinating relations between the two parts of the homeland, on the means by which to restore Yemeni unity in the land and people on a peaceful and democratic basis.

He was seen off by 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state for cabinet affairs.

YSP Central Committee Continues Session

GF121610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The YSP Central Committee held its 11th session this morning under chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers. It discussed the reports presented to it on the 1984 socioeconomic plan. The discussions noted the appreciation and satisfaction of the brother members of the Central Committee for the successes in development in the past period and the achievements which had a great effect on our socioeconomic development and the lives of our country's workers.

The discussions also affirmed that the denominators and development targets included in the development plan of the current year is an expansion of those achieved successes in order to give a new additional momentum to the path of the socioeconomic development of our country. The discussions stressed the importance of dedicating all available material and human resources and means to fulfill the tasks and targets of the plan.

The brother members of the central committee presented at the session a number of views and recommendations in this regard. The central committee will continue the discussion of documents presented on the socioeconomic plan, the general budget of the current year and the rest of the issues on the agenda.

QATAR

Venezuelan Official Delivers Message, Departs

GF121134 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0857 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Doha, 12 Jan (WAKH) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a message from Venezuelan President-elect Jaime Lusinchi on bilateral relations in general and on petroleum in particular, as well as on several other issues of mutual interest, particularly with regard to the international situation of the petroleum market and the means to bolster the unity and solidarity of OPEC.

The message was delivered by Mr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, who was received by the Qatari amir here this morning.

The audience was attended by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari finance and petroleum minister, and the members of the delegation that is accompanying the Venezuelan minister.

The Venezuelan minister left Doha after a 1-day visit to the State of Qatar as part of his current tour of a number of OPEC member-states.

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince To Run State During King's Absence

LD130026 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has designated His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, to look after the interests of the nation and control the affairs of state during his majesty's absence from the Kingdom.

Mubarak Receives Call From Jordan's Husayn

NC122052 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, who expressed his thanks for the cable Mubarak sent yesterday enquiring on Husayn's health. President Mubarak was assured of the king's health and wished him a speedy recovery.

Muhyi ad-Din on Foreign, Agricultural Policy

NC121352 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has stressed that Egypt has its national commitments, adding that the historic meeting which recently took place between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat proves that Egypt's political line was originally sound.

In the popular and political NDP rally in Kafr al-Jabal, Al-Jizah Governorate, the prime minister also underlined Egypt's adherence to the principles of non-alignment and that it only sides with its interests.

The prime minister announced that the government has started a plan to expand agricultural mechanization to combat the manpower shortage in this field and achieve production increases. He indicated that nearly 150,000 acres are reclaimed annually, to be added to the total amount of arable land, and stressed the role of the public and private sectors in development.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din today inaugurated several social service and food self-sufficiency projects in Kafr al-Jabal. The rally was attended by Al-Jizah Governor 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan; 'Abd al-Fatah al-Dali, NDP secretary general in Al-Jizah Governorate; and the governorate's political and popular leaderships.

Paris Paper Interviews Ghali on Mideast Developments

PM121511 Paris LIBERATION in French 9 Jan 84 p 16

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali by Jose Garcon in Paris — date not given]

[Text] *LIBERATION*: Egyptian diplomacy is now devoting itself to the Palestinian problem, relegating the Lebanese affair to second place. Why?

Butrus Ghali: In fact, Egypt wanted to discuss those two questions at the same level and our mistake was precisely to give priority to the Lebanese problem. We wanted to give the United States greater credibility and persuade moderate Palestinians that if the Americans secured the Israelis' withdrawal from Lebanon, that would prove the effectiveness of their diplomacy to some degree. The second stage would have been to secure an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank. However, after a year we saw we had not achieved either an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon or any progress in the Palestinian affair. Worse still, the latter has been relegated to second place and we have witnessed a deterioration in the Palestinians' situation on the West Bank and in Gaza. Therefore, it is urgent to once again mobilize international public opinion to try to prevent that deterioration.

LIBERATION: Is the beginning of the election campaign in the United States not likely to paralyze things?

Butrus Ghali: The campaign obviously complicates the problem, but French and Egyptian diplomacies and Europe must be able to use the American election period to ensure that the United States takes certain actions. I will give just one example: On 1 September 1982 the United States presented an initiative which bears the name of the president (the Reagan plan — *LIBERATION* editor's note).... If that initiative manages to "get off the ground again" today, that will be something.

But the Americans are asking us, and not without reason, how they can intervene when the plan is rejected by both Arabs and Israelis. Therefore, we must succeed in securing a positive attitude on the Arab side, for instance through an agreement between the Palestinians and Jordan. It is also possible to envisage a PLO consultative committee which would be in contact with Jordan or Egypt, but which would not be seen since Israel refuses to recognize the PLO and negotiate directly with it....

LIBERATION: The Egyptian deputy prime minister recently visited Washington. Did he gain the impression that the United States was prepared to adopt a more flexible position?

Butrus Ghali: If we take action, there is a chance that the United States will alter its position; if not, it certainly will do nothing. We do not aspire to secure a general settlement, but want to at least begin a process making it possible to avoid a vacuum which would give rise to despair, terrorism, and destabilization in the region, further complicating the situation and strengthening the "diehards."

LIBERATION: Do you envisage reviving the famous Franco-Egyptian draft resolution on the Near East which Cairo "froze" after publication of the Reagan plan?

Butrus Ghali: That initiative cannot be launched without U.S. agreement. It is completely pointless to discuss it, put it to a Security Council vote, and have the Americans veto it. Unless there are preliminary negotiations with the United States to make it bend its position on this affair, it will be very difficult to guarantee the success of that initiative.

It is necessary to take action at different levels: in the international institutions, the EC, and at the bilateral level. It is also possible to conceive of a trilateral operation by France, Egypt, and the United States. The Middle East crisis comprises 50 different elements, and successfully settling three or four of them would contribute to strengthening the moderates' position and giving hope. We must proceed by "gradual stages." Let us try to secure a political amnesty for West Bank Palestinians or permission from the Israelis for the PNC (parliament — *LIBERATION* editor's note) members living in the West Bank to attend the council's next meeting, to give just two examples.

LIBERATION: What do you now fear most?

Butrus Ghali: If nothing is done the situation will deteriorate even further. There soon will be nothing left to negotiate since all the occupied territories will have been annexed de facto. It is necessary to find partial solutions, even if they seem superficial and marginal, to at least maintain the present status quo and safeguard the Palestinian presence in the West Bank and Gaza. That presence cannot be reduced to that of 300,000 refugees. It implies the Palestinians' own institutions, cooperatives, factories, land, orange exports; in short, a whole network comprising that Palestinian presence. If that network is "broken," the Palestinian cadres will gradually leave those territories where only a Palestinian lumpenproletariat will remain. One of the main priorities therefore is to safeguard the Palestinian presence in the West Bank and Gaza. The experts are thinking of self-determination for the occupied territories and the nature of ties between Jordan and the future Palestinian state. But those are future problems. The present problems are much more crucial and difficult to solve, especially as regards human rights violations. It is in this sphere that Europe can play a role.

LIBERATION: What practical help do you expect from Europe?

Butrus Ghali: I know the difficulties and contradictions which exist within the EEC. But there is no doubt that as regards the Palestinian problem the EC has "regressed" since the Venice statement a few years ago. Therefore, we want Europe to launch a new diplomatic action.

LIBERATION: Do you expect France to receive Yasir 'Arafat?

Butrus Ghali: I would like to give an indirect answer. Anything which may increase Yasir 'Arafat's prestige, which will encourage him to opt for moderation, helps the peace process and is bound to be positive. Yasir 'Arafat is in a difficult position and it is up to us to help him and not destroy him once and for all. Unless we do that we will stumble on a new problem: There will no longer be a valid interlocutor, and therefore no longer any possibility of dialogue.

LIBERATION: By making his first visit after leaving Tripoli to Egypt, 'Arafat caused a real stir. But isn't that visit likely to produce nothing?

Butrus Ghali: Undoubtedly. If that event is not followed by others, if we do not use that visit to create a new "impetus," if after 6 months nothing has happened, then that visit will indeed produce nothing.

LIBERATION: For several months there have been signs of rapprochement — some even talk of an axis — between Cairo, Baghdad, Amman, Algiers, and the PLO....

Butrus Ghali: I don't think so. It is a mistake to think there will be a solution to the Palestinian problem while the Arab countries are divided. It is an incorrect approach to the problem to expect a hypothetical "united" Arab "front" or to think that only an agreement between the two superpowers will make it possible to solve the Palestinian problem, because in the meantime Palestine will become part of the past once and for all.

LIBERATION: Are not the "small steps" and temporary solutions which you advocate primarily a "veil" serving to conceal a real paralysis until the Americans are prepared to do something?

Butrus Ghali: Those small steps are limited in time, precisely until the U.S. elections next November when a new position will be adopted. They serve to hold international public opinion's attention, to "contain extremism and terrorism and encourage the moderates. [quotation mark as published]. If we manage to secure that — and in addition to improve life for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza it will be a major achievement.

Afro-Asian Committee To Invite 'Arafat to Meeting

NC131108 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, Jan 13 (AFP) — The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee is to invite Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat to a conference of support for the Palestinian people here on March 10. Ahmad Hamrush, the secretary-general of the organisation, which is non-governmental, said a delegation from the committee would be seeing Mr 'Arafat next week at OAU Headquarters in Tunis.

Mr 'Arafat was in Cairo last December 22, when his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak ended almost five years of broken relations between the PLO and Egypt in the wake of the March 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

Mr Hamrush said Mr 'Arafat would be allowed to decide which other leading Palestinians should be invited to the conference.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,339

JN121755 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,339 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 12 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With efficiency and capability our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the aggressor Iranian enemy forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force belonging to our forward units opened fire on an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward positions in the Maysan sector and managed to kill three troops, capture two, and seize a number of the patrol's weapons and military equipment.

2. One of our forward units opened artillery fire on the enemy positions opposite our positions east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits and destroying two weapons emplacements. Elsewhere in the same area, our forward units opened fire on two enemy patrols which tried to approach our forward positions, and forced them to flee after inflicting on them losses in lives and equipment.

3. Fleeing from the oppression and tyranny of the spiteful Khomeyniite clique, fresh groups of Iranians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 January 1984

Ramadan Comments on Aims of 1984 Budget Law

JN121647 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has announced that the 1984 budget law, investment plan, and foreign trade plan have been approved by the National Assembly and ratified by the RCC.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that the preparation of the 1984 budget benefited from the very successful 1983 experience which proved the soundness of our economic march, the accuracy of our programs, and the efficiency in implementing these programs, especially since this budget came in the 4th year of war.

He added that the new budget will concentrate on continuing the economic and social development process and promoting working methods to guarantee a proper living standard for the Iraqi citizen through subsidizing basic commodities and services. He indicated that priority in the allocation of funds will be given to those sectors which are related to the war and construction as well as to the sectors of culture, information, health, education, higher education, and scientific research. He added that the scientific research allocations have surpassed those of last year in order to provide all requirements for the continuation and consolidation of victory over the spiteful Iranian enemy.

Regarding the 1984 foreign trade plan, the first deputy prime minister said that this plan gives special attention to providing all the goods needed by local markets, particularly foodstuffs and consumer goods, in order to ensure an appropriate stock of supplies. This plan, he added, also satisfies the needs of the industrial and production projects and the national development plans with the aim of expanding production and developing our national economy.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the 1984 investment plan concentrates on the strategic projects which serve the war effort and doubles our Army's combat capabilities and our people's ability to build and defend their country at the same time.

President Receives Message From Saudi King

JN121940 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a message from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with cooperation between the two brotherly countries and the exchange of opinions concerning the Arab situation. The message was delivered by Tarrad 'Abdallah al-Harithi, Saudi ambassador in Baghdad, when the president received him this morning. The president's secretary attended the meeting.

'Arafat To Visit Jordan 'Within 10 Days'

JN121120 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan, has stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan within the next 10 days.

Col al-Khatib praised the spirit of democracy and understanding which the Palestine cause witnesses and which prevailed in the Palestinian deliberations and meetings which took place in Tunis recently.

Col al-Khatib participated in the meetings of the PLO's Higher Military Council which took place in Tunis under Yasir 'Arafat.

AD-DUSTUR on PLO Relations, Parliament's Recall

JN130910 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Explanation, and Not an Apology," *AD-DUSTUR* says: While the statements by Yasir 'Arafat and some PLO leaders describing the Jordanian measure on the restoration of parliamentary life as a purely internal matter are in harmony with truth and reality, the statements attributed to other PLO leaders yesterday on the same subject were disappointing and in many ways contrary to the spirit of objectivity.

AD-DUSTUR says: We are not referring to those in Syria who condemned the Jordanian measures, because they are hostile to Jordan regardless of what Jordan does or does not do. Those people are excused, as they cannot understand that the issues of democracy, an elected Parliament, and the participation of people in decisionmaking are central points and basic principles in the Jordanians' belief. We are referring to those who misunderstood the Jordanian measure on restoring parliamentary life, and with good intentions think that this measure will harm the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people.

We call on those brothers to read again the contents of the royal letter of designation to the new prime minister, Ahmad 'Ubaydat, and the remarks in 'Ubaydat's reply to the effect that Jordan continues to adhere to its stand and considers the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. However, the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people, their ambitions, and their national rights is one thing and the Jordanian people's refraining from practicing their right to parliamentary life and their freezing of the Parliament and constitutional institutions for 9 years out of their respect for the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people is another.

AD-DUSTUR continues: The PLO's representation of the Palestinian people's aspirations should not have imposed a ban on this country's development along the path of democracy, which is considered a sacred right of the Jrodanian people that must not be linked to other rights. Jordan temporarily sacrificed its parliamentary institution all this time because of its concern that the PLO's role and the Palestinians' rights should occupy the principal position in the international arena, hoping that the situation in the occupied territories would improve in a way that would allow Jordan to resume its constitutional life with all its institutions. Palestinian rights and the PLO's role have become known throughout the world, while the current situation in the occupied territories is deteriorating in a way that threatens not only the Palestinians but also the Jordanians. This situation compelled the return of Jordanian rule to the people and their constitutional institutions in order to confront the threats as one community. This is the truth and the reality for all those who enjoy the spirit of justice and who want to know the motives and reasons.

It is not fair to ask the Jordanian people to continue to sacrifice their freedom and their constitutional rights while awaiting the unknown; neither is it fair to ask Jordan to remain captive to a stalemate while events are rapidly moving around it, especially since these events will eventually affect its and its people's future.

If the Arab leaders lacked wisdom in 1974 and failed to find a practical formula to accomodate the inevitable continuation of struggle in order to bring out the indepenent Palestinian identity and Jordan's right to shoulder its responsibilities toward its people in a correct way, then it is not Jordan that must be held responsible for this lack, but those who designed the resolutions and then left others with the burden of tackling the results.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The PLO's representation of the Palestinian people will remain subject to Jordan's respect and consecration. Those who believe that the recent Jordanian measures are aimed against the PLO's representation or are a step toward unilateral negotiations are either deluding themselves or do not understand Jordan.

Jordan realizes that the path to peace is difficult, long, and illusive. Unless the signs along the path are clear, the intentions are sincere, and all Arab and international parties — foremost the PLO — assume their complete roles in achieving peace, Jordan will not create peace alone and will not move toward it on anyone's behalf. Jordan will strengthen and entrench its internal structure in order to face all eventualities.

Prime Minister Receives Palestinian Well-Wishers

JN121351 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received in his office at the Prime Ministry today Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and Minister of Court 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. They congratulated the prime minister on the exalted royal confidence [place in him].

With Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar in attendance, 'Ubaydat received 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, representative of the PLO Executive Committee in Amman; Brigadier General Nihad Nusaybah, 'Arafat's military adviser; Salim Shahin, charge d'affaires of the PLO office in Amman; Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the Badr forces; and high-ranking officers of the Paelstine Liberation Army in Jordan. They too congratulated the prime minister for the exalted royal confidence.

The prime minister also received West Bank members of the House of Representatives, popular delegations representing the occupied West Bank, and personages of the refugee and displaced persons camps in Jordan. They congratulated Prime Minister 'Ubaydat for the exalted royal confidence and wished him success in serving the homeland and the nation under King Husayn's leadership.

'Ubaydat Comments on Ties With Saudi Arabia

GF111706 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The new Jordanian prime minister, Ahmad 'Ubaydat, has announced his pride and appreciation for the fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Jordan. In a statement to the SPA correspondent in Amman, he said that the two fraternal countries are always linked with fraternal relations based on cooperation, coordination, and the common interest of the Arab and the Islamic nations. He added — in his first press statement since he assumed the post of prime minister — that the cordial relations between the Kingdom and Jordan will remain in this positive form because of the continuous support provided by the leaders of the two fraternal countries, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his brother His Majesty King Husayn.

The Jordanian prime minister praised the continuous support which Jordan receives from the Kingdom. He said: The constructive and fruitful coordination and cooperation between the two fraternal countries will continue as they stem from unity of fate and goal that link the Saudi and the Jordanian peoples.

During his statement to SPA correspondent, he touched on his government's concern with bolstering and cementing Arab solidarity, regarding this as the effective and the necessary weapon that enables the Arab nation to firmly confront challenges and threats.

Information Minister on East, West Bank Unity

JN121853 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1716 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Layla Sharaf has stated that the development of the democratic and political institutions in Jordan cannot be frozen pending the solution of pan-Arab problems and the liberation of the West Bank. She added that after the liberation of these lands, there will be no disagreement on the Palestinians' final decision regarding their position.

She expressed her firm personal belief in the natural unity of Jordan's two banks and added that the declaration of unity between them in 1952 was an expression of the two peoples' democratic option as much as is allowed by democracy in the Arab world.

Finally, Layla Sharaf wondered how some Arab states agreed to unity between Egypt and Syria in 1960 and between Libya and the PDRY in 1973 but reject unity between Jordan's two banks at a time when this unity is natural and logical.

King Phones Amman Radio, Says Condition 'Good'

JN121502 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Amman, 12 Jan (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn has expressed his love, thanks, and appreciation for the sons of the one Jordanian family on their kind feelings toward his majesty and their wishes of speedy recovery. In a telephone call with an Amman Radio phone-in program, his majesty said that he enjoys good health and that he will resume his responsibilities within the next few days.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Official 12 Jan

JN121330 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received in his office today Gregory Newell, U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs. The U.S. official acquainted Minister al-Masri with the reasons the U.S. Government withdrew from UNESCO and the U.S. viewpoint toward the UN specialized agencies.

Al-Masri expressed the Jordanian Government's regret at the United States' decision to withdraw from UNESCO and hoped that the U.S. Government would reconsider this decision. He said that the presence of a superpower like the United States in this important UN agency would benefit and help this important UN agency to perform its well-known duties.

The meeting was attended by Newell's delegation and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Newell arrived in Amman this morning on an official visit to Jordan that will last a few days.

Senate President Receives PRC Delegation

JN121554 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Amman, 12 Jan (PETRA) — Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has said that Jordan's policy toward the region's issues is based on the need for achieving a just and lasing peace in the Middle East and that it considers the Palestinian question a basic issue. During a meeting with the PRC National People's Congress delegation today, Al-Lawzi added: Peace can be achieved only through Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He affirmed that the Palestinian people and the Arab nation will work with all available means to regain their just and recognized rights.

He said: Jordan will continue to play its role effectively to unify Arab ranks, build Arab solidarity, safeguard the PLO's legitimacy and independent decisionmaking, participate effectively in the Arab and Islamic summits, and work seriously for the Palestinian question and all Arab issues in the international arena.

Al-Lawzi added that friednship between Jordan and the PRC is based on understanding and interaction. He said that this is a curative method which adheres to human values and principles and makes them the axis of understanding among peoples.

The Senate president pointed out that Israel's hostile policy and expansionist practices in the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon are major obstacles to the peace to which the Arabs aspire.

Al-Lawzi praised the PRC stand toward the Arab issues, foremost being its role to acheive peace and its support for the peoples' right to self-determination.

The head of the PRC delegation praised His Majesty King Husayn's stands on Arab and international issues and his support for peace efforts in the region. He also stressed his country's stand of supporting Arab issues and the need to achieve peace in the region within the framework of just bases. He pointed out that the Arab nation's unity is the basic factor that will achieve victory over its enemies. He stressed that his country is against the split within Palestinian ranks.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the PRC delegation said: We support the efforts being exerted to stop the war between the two sides and we appreciate Iraq's stands toward and response to the peace initiatives to end the Gulf war.

The PRC delegation congratulated Al-Lawzi on the royal confidence expressed in his appointment as Senate president and praised Jordan's achievements on all levels.

Senate President on Restoration of Parliament
JN131012 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Ahmad Dhiban dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has asserted that His Majesty King Husayn's step in restoring parliamentary life in Jordan is a great achievement for the Jordanian people. This step represents resumption of parliamentary life, which is considered one of the main characteristics and principles of the Jordanian entity and one of the main factors aimed at developing Jordan's political entity. Article 1 of the Jordanian Constitution says: Jordan is a monarchy with a parliamentary form of government.

In his first press statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* in his capacity as the president of the Jordanian Senate, Al-Lawzi added that the people's role as represented by their representatives is important and basic because the Parliament, with its representatives and Senate members, represents the people and expresses their ambitions and aspirations. Those representatives are motivated by the people's principles and needs in their democratic practices and responsibilities in the spheres of legislation and their discussions of both major issues and society's affairs.

Al-Lawzi added: I am certain that the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan is a historic opportunity to confirm Parliament's role, the major responsibilities it shoulders, and its ability to assume its mission with sincerity and honesty.

Asked about the tendentious explanations of some parties concerning Jordan's step to restore parliamentary life and its connection with the PLO's legitimate representation of the Palestinian people, the Senate president said: This step is the resumption of the long march of Jordan's democratic and parliamentary experiment based on the provisions of the Constitution. The restoration of parliamentary life is an internal affair, and it is not subject to any tendentious explanation. This measure does not bypass the role of the PLO in its representation of the Palestinian people or in its attempt to regain Palestinian territory. In fact, the dimension related to Jordan's struggle and action for the sake of the Palestinian cause is a basic and important matter on the path of serving the cause, regaining the Arab Palestinian rights, protecting the Arab existence in Palestine, and the assumption of Jordan's role toward its nation on all issues.

Hebron Representative Arrives 11 January
JN121009 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Dr Hafiz 'Abd an-Nabi, Hebron area representative, arrived in Amman yesterday to participate in the ordinary session of Parliament to begin on Montday.

The Israeli occupation authorities prevented Dr 'Abd an-Nabi from traveling to Jordan and last week sent him back [to the West Bank] from the King Husayn Bridge.

Rumsfeld Meets Salim, Haddad; To Visit Syria

NC121236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] U.S. Special Envoy Donald Rumsfeld today met with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and Dr Wadi' Haddad, presidential adviser for national affairs before heading to Damascus to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Rumsfeld's talks — which will pave the way for the tripartite meeting among the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers in Casablanca this coming Monday — will include discussions with Syrian officials on the question of their refusal to accept the 17 May agreement, as cited today by *REUTER*.

Saudi Envoy Meets Karami, Franjiyah; Statements

NC121314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Within the Saudi role, aimed at bringing a Lebanese consensus to the security plan, there is activity at the Arab level by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and at the local level by Saudi Ambassador Ahmad Mahmud al-Kuhaymi, who today visited the north to meet with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and former President Sulayman Franjiyah. He was accompanied by his embassy's First Counselor Abu Bakr Rafi' and embassy Secretary Fawwaz Jukhaddar.

After meeting Karami, Ambassador al-Kuhaymi said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Kuhaymi] This was a protocol visit after Ipresented my credentials [in December]. Naturally the talks dealt with all aspects of the current situation in Lebanon.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Ambassador, Former Prime Minister Karami has clear stances regarding the Lebanese crisis. Were the views identical?

[Al-Kuhaymi] Yes.

[Reporter] Also in respect of the security plan?

[Al-Kuhaymi] I leave it to Karami to talk about the security plan.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, regarding the damage to Tripoli, what is the Saudi Kingdom's position or role in contributing to its reconstruction?

[Al-Kuhaymi] The Saudi Kingdom and his majesty the king have never hesitated to help this country. [end recording]

Former prime Minister Karami said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] The talks centered on political, social, and security solutions for not only Tripoli and the north, but all of Lebanon as well. This round of talks was useful as it defined the picture, thus making it possible to cooperate in seeking comprehensive solutions that will deliver Lebanon from its ordeal and put it on the road to salvation. There will be no salvation without justice because justice is the foundation of rule. We are confident that Saudi Arabia is exerting every necessary effort to help this march against all local and foreign obstacles. I feel reassured by the result of these talks. Our viewpoints are identical. [end recording]

Khuri, UK Envoy Discuss Security Plan, UK Role

NC121319 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri met this morning with British Ambassador David Miers in an acquaintance visit. They reviewed the obstacle precluding implementation of the security plan and the British contingent's role within the framework of the Multinational Force. Minister Khuri thanked the British ambassador for his country's efforts.

Ambassador Miers said his country supports Lebanon's efforts torestore itself and reimpose state control.

Franjiyah Denies Disagreements Within Front

NC131014 Beirut THE DAILY STAR in English 11 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah on Tuesday denied rumors of disagreements within the National Salvation Front and said the lack of agreement at the meeting of the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers had not undermined the suspended National Reconciliation talks. Franjiyah made his remarks at his weekly press conference in Zgharta.

Asked about the reasons for the delay in implementing the proposed security plan, which was discussed at the tripartite meeting, Franjiyah said he lacked facts but thought "that the government prefered to implement the plan without violence." He warned, however, that the situation "could deteriorate" in the meantime, because "guns are in the hands of Lebanon's enemies."

Franjiyah predicted that the country "would return to normal" if the plan is implemented and added "it is hoped that what was not accomplished in Riyadh can be accomplished in Morocco."

Amal Leader Birri Calls for Israeli Withdrawal

NC121924 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Lawyer Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, has called on Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon. In a statement today, Birri said: Israel launched a campaign of raids and arrests in the Tyre area last night, including Al-'Abbasiyah, Burj Rahhal, and Badyas. It attacked the house of Shaykh Muhammad 'Aqil 'Isa, chairman of the Al-Birr Wa Al-Ihsan Society, founded by Imam Musa as-Sadr in Tyre and which is administratively supervised by Mrs Rabab as-Sadr. Israel arrested 'Aqil 'Isa, official in charge of social services and Amal Political Bureau member.

After discussing the various Israeli actions against the citizens of the south, and the south's economy, and the plight of the Amal Movement officials, he said: The escalating and serious actions that Israel carried out yesterday and today by detaining leaders of the movement practically brings the Israeli forces to the mouth of the volcano, which is threatening to erupt. While we call on the Arab and Islamic states and the international institutions, including the United Nations, to immediately raise their voice with regard to what is happening, we state that we are on the verge of despair over the rhetorical approaches. If these do not produce results soon, Israel will have an imminent date with us involving greater jihad. We are on the verge of adopting a decision regarding this jihad. Israel must also now choose between total withdrawal from the south and the explosion of the whole situation.

Birri called on the inhabitants of Tyre and its area to take a united stand against this flagrant aggression against the Amal Movement, against the Al-Birr Wa Al-Ihsan Society, and even againstevery resident in the area and town. Such a stand — which we are accustomed to seeing in Tyre, one of the historic, triumphant cities of Lebanon — is required more today than at any previous time.

Resistance Warns Against Obstruction of Plan

NC121845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] In view of the dangers threatening the south as a result of the obstruction of the security plan, which ensures the deployment of the Lebanese Army at the approaches of Sidon in preparation for filling any area from which Israel may vacate, the all-out Civilian Resistance Against Israel [Al-Muqawamah Al-Madaniyah Ash-Shamilah Did Isra'il] warned — in a 5-point statement issued today — those attempting to foil the security plan of the consequences of their actions. It affirmed that any delay in the plan's implementation — through the creation of obstacles to foil it — will expose the south to grave dangers in the event Israel effects a partial withdrawal from part of the south.

After maintaining that implementation of the plan will make it possible to save united Lebanon and its Arab identity, end any talk of sectarian cantons, and save the Lebanese economy, it warned against any action or position obstructing implementation of the security plan.

Additional Reportage on Security Situation

Beirut Residential Areas Shelled

NC121602 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Socialist attacks on Army positions in the mountain expanded to cover residential areas in Al-Ashrafiyah, Al-Hadath, the periphery of B'abda, the Defense Ministry, Jisr al-Basha, and Ad-Dikwanah. Shells have fallen on Sinn al-Fil and Ad-Dikwanah. Citizens are requested to take precautionary measures.

Port Shelled; Power Cut

NC121739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Shells landed in various parts of Beirut this evening and the situation deteriorated on the combat axes in the 'Alayh area. A cease-fire agreement to go into effect at 1800 today has been reached, and it is hoped it will not be subjected to a similar fate as previous agreements.

Security sources reported that the exchange of artillery fire abated a short while ago.

Earlier at 1730 eight shells landed on Beirut port, and prior to this security sources said many shells fell in the perimeter of the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi, Ad-Dikwanah, Al-Mukallis, and other areas far from the combat axes.

As a result of this evening's shelling, which was directed at Beirut's suburbs, the coastal 66 kilovolt power line linking the Az-Zuq thermal power station to the Al-Bushariyah station, which supplies the capital with electricity, was hit causing a general power failure. Only one other line links Az-Zuq with Al-Bushariyah, which only supplies 40,000 kilowatts when the capital — within the context of rationing — requires 120,000. The electricity authority was compelled to utilize the sole remaining line to supply the vital services. As soon as the damage occurred, technical teams searched for the cause of the damage to begin repair work.

Mountain Axes Area Shelled

NC130917 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Junblatt's armed men early this morning disturbed the security situation on the mountain axes when they took citizens by surprise by shelling the Al-Hadath area, An-Nahr, and Mar Mikhayil with Grad missiles, killing Ilyas Francis and Linda Abu Sufyan in the An-Nahr Quarter, and injuring a number of others in the same area.

In the Al-Hadath area, a shell fell at 0955 today on Ad-Dabbas Square, injuring 'Abdallah at-Tannuri and Lilyan Matar. Earlier this morning, the Greek Orthodox Quarter in Al-Hadath came under indiscriminate shelling, which injured Milad Iliya, 'Aydah Buraydi, awoman, and her daughter from the Al-Qazzah family. Security sources say the sources of the indiscriminate shelling are the long-range artillery emplacements in 'Ayn al-Jadidah. These sources warned that the shelling may expand to populated areas.

Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, Qurs al-Mudawwar, and [name indistinct] have been under sniper fire since 0730 today from armed positions in the western quarter of 'Alayh and 'Aytat peripheries. In addition, Army positions in Khaldah and 'Aramun came under rocket and antitank fire at 0600 for 20 minutes.

Various Army Positions Attacked

NC131147 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Violent clashes are continuing on the Kafr Shima-Ashu-Shuwayfat and Radio Orient-Khaldah axes following an attack on Army positions in the Radio Orient area. The Army strongly repulsed this attack and inflicted heavy losses on the attackers.

A short while ago it was reported that artillery shells fell in the Al-Hadath, Brummana, and Al-Antoniyah areas in Al-Hadath. In the meantime, attacks on Lebanese Army positions in Qurs al-Mudawwar, Suq al-Gharb, and Qabr Shmun are continuing. The Army is returning the fire to its sources with the appropriate weapons.

Army, French Fight Gunmen

NC131219 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1158 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] A security source stated a short while ago that a clash has occurred between the Lebanese Army and the French on the one hand and gunmen on the other in the Gaumont Palace area, Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, and Ziqaq al-Balat [in Beirut]. No further details are presently available.

French Official's Wife Wounded, Condition Unknown

NC130800 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Two unidentified persons on motorcycles this morning opened fire on the wife of [name indistinct], director of the French cultural center. She was wounded and taken to the American Hospital in Beirut. Further details will be given as available.

Shells Directed at French Post; No Casualties

NC121421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] A security source reported that today at 1520 a shell fell in the Ad-Dikwanah area of Beirut. The source said two shells which fell at 1410 today were directed at a French forces' post in Al-Mukallis. The source did not report any casualties or damage.

Marines Return Fire After Shelling; No Casualties

NC131046 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1022 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The latest security reports say that U.S. Marines returned fire to its sources in Ash-Shuwayfat after their positions in the airport perimeter were shelled. At this hour, shells are still falling on the Khaldah triangle.

IDF Closes Sayniq Bridge; Al-Awwali Still Closed

NC130956 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The security situation deteriorated noticeably this morning when shells landed indiscriminately in several areas of Beirut causing casualties and material damage.

A short while ago, a security source said Lebanese Army positions in 'Ayn Ksur were coming under mortar fire.

Approximately 20 minutes ago, two Israeli planes flew over the mountain before turning southward, and in the south, Israeli movements were seen this morning along the Sidon-Tyre Road. Contrary to what has been reported, the Al-Awwali Bridge remains closed to traffic and pedestrians in both directions. Israeli forces also closed Sayniq Bridge at 0930 this morning.

Legislator Says Information Law 'Restrictive'

LD121440 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1644 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, 11 January (KUNA) — It has been decided that two private radios will commence experimental transmissions during the next ten days.

Sources in the Socialist Progressive Party, headed by Walid Junblatt, member of the opposition National Salvation Front, said that a radio belonging to the party will begin experimental transmission by the end of next week at the latest.

Another private radio will also start transmitting shortly from the southern suburb. There are five private radios in Lebanon, apart from the official government radio. They are "Voice of Lebanon," mouthpiece of the Phalangists; "Voice of Arab Lebanon" of the independent Nasiri movement — Al-Murabitun; "Voice of Free Lebanon" of the Phalangist Lebanese forces; "Voice of the United Free Lebanon" of the Al-Marada belonging to ex-President Sulayman Franjiyah; and the "Voice of Hope" of the Army of Free Lebanon which belongs to the mutinous Major Sa'd Haddad. This is in addition to other private radios which transmit music on FM waves.

A Parliamentarian legislator told KUNA today that Lebanon's Information Law is "restrictive" as it bans any radio, apart from the official government radio, and so restricts radio and TV information to the official institutions.

He added that he personally knew, from other trustworthy sources, that the current government of Shafiq al-Wazzan has given extraordinary undeclared permissions, probably under pressure, to "Voice of Lebanon," Phalangist mouthpiece, and in exchange gave a permission to the "Voice of Arab Lebanon," mouthpiece of Al-Murabitun.

The Parliamentarian legislator, who preferred anonymity, considered these permissions a violation of the Lebanese Constitution.

THE DAILY STAR on Mid-January PSP Radio Tests

NC131010 Beirut THE DAILY STAR in English 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] A Progressive Socialist Party radio station has been completed in the Ash-Shuf Mountains and will commence daily broadcasts at the beginning of February, the International News Agency reported Wednesday.

An 80-meter transmission tower has been constructed, a tape library compiled with material from Arab countries, and advertising contracts signed, the agency said. A staff of U.S. and European trained electricians and engineers will begin test broadcasts by mid-January.

Rumsfeld Arrives in Damascus, Begins Talks

Arrival Reported

JN121650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1700 today, U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Damascus. He was received at the airport by the director of American affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Khaddam Meeting

JN121908 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] At 1900 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld. The meeting was attended by Sami Ghulayyil, director of American affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with the current situation in the region.

Rumsfeld arrived in Damascus at 1700 today and was received at Damascus airport by Sami Ghulayyil, director of American affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Khalil Abu Hadid, assistant director of protocol at the ministry; the U.S. ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Second Meeting Held

JN131129 Damascus Doemstic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has held the second round of talks with U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld. During the session, they completed yesterday's discussion of the current situation in the region.

Al-Asad Receives Rumsfeld

JN131234 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld a short while ago. Rumsfeld earlier held a second round of talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. SANA reported that the talks between Rumsfeld and Khaddam dealt with the current situation in the region, and were attended by U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Robert Paganelli.

AL-BA'TH on Lack of Trust in U.S. Policy

JN130752 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United States Implements Israel's Wishes," *AL-BA'TH* writes: Israel's talk about its conditions for withdrawing from Lebanon is merely playing with words to kill time and to impose its will on all international resolutions and human demands. The United States, which supports Israel's designs for expansion, intentionally forgets that it supported De Gaulle against Hitler's armies of invasion and that it is now supporting neo-Nazism, represented by Israel. In addition to all this, it also claims that it is working for peace in Lebanon and in the Middle East.

AL-BA'TH wonders: If the matter is as President Reagan's administration is claiming, why are the U.S. citizens raising their voices to call for the Marines' withdrawal from Beirut and to protest against an involvement which only serves Israel's hegemonist designs and its desire to achieve expansion?

AL-BA'TH continues: U.S. soldiers are being killed in Lebanon. Why are they being killed if they are part of a peace-keeping force that seeks to keep the Lebanese from harm? Those who occupy Lebanon's territory are enjoying the protection of the U.S. political umbrella, killing the children of Sidon and the women of southern Lebanon with U.S. bullets, and obtaining half of their annual revenue from U.S. assistance funds. After all this, can the United States claim that its presence on Lebanonese territory is a peaceful one? Syria, which the Reagan Administration views as the obstacle to peace in Lebanon, has a beloved part of its territory occupied by Israel. Can it trust the United States, which is entrenching Israel's occupation of the Golan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip?

In view of the many incidents that have made Syria well acquainted with the United States' lies and hypocrisy, specifically the bad intentions harbored by the Reagan Administration, all that U.S. diplomacy can concoct for the region will be some kind of a conspiracy or one form or another of U.S. assistance to Israel. As leader Al-Asad stated, the United States implements the Israeli decision. As long as it continues to reject the international community's resolutions, how can Arab citizens trust its moves and diplomacy? That's why Syria refuses to equate its own legitimate presence in Lebanon with the Israeli invaders' presence — which has been condemned by the world at large, rejected by all the forces that defend justice and rights, and denounced by the United Nations.

Syria insists on an unconditional Israeli withdrawal as well as a U.S. withdrawal as a reaffirmation of the United States' neutrality. After this, Lebanon will find in Syria a fraternal country that will seek to achieve for Lebanon what it seeks to achieve for itself.

Al-Asad Meets With British Secretary Howe 12 Jan

JN121815 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Igor Lucas, British ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with the situation in the region and the developments in the Lebanese arena. Howe con-

veyed British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's greetings to the President, who in turn asked the secretary to convey his greetings to her.

Howe expressed satisfaction with his talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, despite the differences in viewpoints on some of the topics discussed. He explained his government's views toward the situation in the region and said that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was wrong and badly directed, and was also condemned by the United Nations. He added: We want to see the achievement of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Al-Asad explained to Howe Syria's viewpoint on the events in the region, and said that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon took place with U.S. blessings and was a joint U.S.-Israeli decision. He added that U.S. policy in the region does not serve the U.S. national interest but implements Israel's policy and decisions. He affirmed that the Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon, at a Lebanese request, had stopped the civil war; but this war was rekindled when the U.S. forces came to Lebanon. These U.S. forces, which constitute the backbone of the Multinational Forces, have been turned into one of the warring militias.

Al-Asad said that the region's masses do not consider the U.S. forces as peaceful or neutral forces because they have become one of the warring factions. He referred to the massing of U.S. warships in the eastern Mediterranean and said: The United States is a superpower, and thus it should carry principles not guns. He reiterated that overcoming the problems is possible, but not under the pressure of U.S. guns.

Al-Asad said: We will not permit Lebanon's separation from the Arab nation. Lebanon is an Arab country and is neither American nor European. We seek a political solution to the problem that ends the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and obligates Israel to withdraw from Lebanon unconditionally. We want Lebanon to be an independent state in which peace prevails. He added: We will not withdraw simultaneously from Lebanon with the Israelis and will not link our withdrawal to that of Israel. Syria has affirmed that there will be no problem between itself and Lebanon when Israel unconditionally withdraws from Lebanon.

Al-Asad said that the United States wants to involve its allies in Lebanon and reiterated that Britain can play a positive role, since it is an ally of the United States and has ethical and historical responsibilities in the region.

Howe Holds Press Conference

JN121958 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus —Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, held a press conference this afternoon attended by Arab and foreign news agency correspondents in Damascus. Howe noted that the Syrian role is important and vital to the Middle East question and the Lebanese issue. He said that his country does not intend to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs and that his talks with the Syrian officials have confirmed to him that Syria wants Lebanon to become an independent sovereign state and wants all the foreign forces to leave Lebanon. He also said that Britain now understands the Syrian stand better. Howe said that Britain welcomes the strengthening of ties with Syria and the continuation of contacts with it.

Howe thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for receiving him. He concluded his press conference by saying: We found that the Syrian Government is in harmony with the viewpoint of the British Government concerning Lebanon's independence. He said: We believe that there should be a compromise solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through negotiations.

Howe Departure Reported

JN121914 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and his delegation left Damascus at 1630 today. He was seen off at Damascus airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sulayman Haddad, director of the European department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Misbah Dalati, director of protocol; Lutfallah Haydar, Syrian ambassador in London; the British ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Mitterrand Adviser Meets With Foreign Minister

JN121246 Paris Radio Monte in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] French diplomatic sources in Damascus today revealed that Francois De Grossouvre, adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand, visited Syria 9-11 January and met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Rif'at al-Asad, commander of the defense companies, and that the talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Commentary Assails Jordan's Recent Steps

JN121538 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The moves of the Jordanian regime are accelerating at a time when the circle of U.S. influence has expanded to include Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters. Those who interact with the Jordanian moves believe that Palestine is a commodity owned by a single party, and that this party has the right to endorse Palestine to any party it wants and by methods desired by U.S. diplomacy and the Camp David regime in Egypt. Those who have initiated these accelerated steps in order to liquidate the Palestinians' rights and disregard the blood of thousands of persons who were martyred for the sake of Palestine, believe that they possess the power to make decisions in the region and that they are the owners of the cause — a cause whose roots extend to include the whole Arab territory and penetrate into the psychological depth of every Arab.

Those who follow these steps and beliefs are the people most remote from the cause; a cause they have fought since the Palestinian tragedy. Their ridiculing and relinquishing of this sacred cause springs from their deep hatred of Palestine and its people, not from their concern about the Palestinians' safety, security, and future. Those who are encroaching on the cause of a whole nation have forgotten that they will never possess the power to make decisions in the region; and that the Arab cards, which they claim and dream of having, will never be possessed by the United States.

The Arab conflict with Zionism, represented in Israel, is one of survival. The Arab nation should have sovereignty over its national soil, or it will become fragmented into masses and governments under the domination of the Zionist empire of which the Zionists are dreaming. This is the Palestine question. We should either be Arabs or not. 'Arafat dropping his rifle does not mean that the Palestinian people have dropped their identity or that Arab peoples in all their countries have accepted the Zionist existence as an alternative to their cultural and pan-Arab existence.

Whatever the slogan the Jordanian regime is using to make itself an alternative for the Palestinian people and their struggle, thisslogan will not be turned into a decision regardless of thenumerous sides that are responding to it or the forces that are ready to escalate the conflict in the region for its sake. While Israel greatly rejoices over the Jordanian regime's moves that plot against the most sacred Arab cause, Israel has not hidden its demands or retreated from its objectives, even under all the humiliating concessions that have been made. Shamir considers the Jordan River a border of his Zionist entity, and the West Bank and Gaza inhabitants an Arab community living on Israeli land — an Arab community whose sons are servants for the Zionist settlers and whose land is Israel's where they will stay temporarily because the lease on this land will not last for long.

We do not expect that this Israeli stand will deter those who have conceded pan-Arab rights; but we in Syria reaffirm that the decision in the region will be an Arab decision — a decision that will be made in the interests of Palestine and its people; a decision that will only be made by those who are determined to keep the pan-Arab will a possession of the Arab masses, not of those who have plotted against the masses' interests and future.

Even if the Jordanian king, through his Parliament and Government, were able to hold more than one Yasir 'Arafat in his hands; and even if he exploits all his forces for this conspiracy in order to be part of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, he will not be able to erase the existence of Palestine — the cause and the people.

Shamir Addresses Herut Movement Center

TA121926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] At the Central Committee of the Herut party in Tel Aviv this evening, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir gave a state of the nation address to party members. Tony Gadot reports:

[Begin Gadot recording] Before Prime Minister Shamir began his speech, one committee member, Andre (Qalchenski), demanded that Shamir resign, and called on Menahem Begin to return to the premiership — a demand that he was to make again during Shamir's speech. This led to a scuffle and (Qalchenski's) forced expulsion from the floor.

The prime minister began his speech by saying that if he had not vocally supported Sharon in his candidacy for immigration and absorption head of the World Zionist Organization, and Sharon had not been elected, he would never have forgiven himself. Immigration must be in the forefront of our policies, he said, and immigration has lost a great leader. The Herut party must become more active amongst Jews of the Diaspora, and must make its policies well-known abroad, he said.

It was at this point that Ari'el Sharon entered the auditorium, and was greeted by a standing ovation. Shamir then continued, and said that while media was reporting on new lows in Israeli-U.S. relations, the way was being paved for the present excellent relations. Shamir went on to speak of the country's financial situation, and said that we are only now beginning to see the positive results of Yoram Aridor's policy, giving us as an example December's improved import-export figures. The prime minister then said that the Herut party will never allow unemployment in the country, and that Israel must take advantage of the brilliant minds in science, industry, and agriculture that exist in Israel.

Shamir concluded by saying that there will be no freezing of settlements in Judaea and Samaria, and that the government is working for the speedy return of Israeli forces from Lebanon. [end recording]

Sharon Criticizes Herut

TA121932 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Let us look at what is happening in the Herut movement following Ari'el Sharon's failure to be elected to the post of head of the Jewish Agency Immigration Department. This evening, Minister Ari'el Sharon went to the Herut movement center's session. In his speech, Sharon very bitterly criticized what was happening in the movement. He called for a reshuffle in the party, and the convening of a conference which would elect the Herut movement's institutions. Until that happens, Sharon demands that all party appointments be frozen. Let us hear some of Minister Sharon's remarks:

[Begin Sharon videotape] It is not Mr Dulzin [Jewish Agency head] who is responsible for the fact that I am not playing any role in the Government of Israel today. It is not he who caused this. He did not report to the Cabinet session that he had decided this. And it was not Mr Dulzin — and I am not Mr Dulzin's disciple nor Mr Dulzin's enemy — but it was not Mr Dulzin who was responsible for the fact that I have been sitting for a year, nearly a year, at home and driving the tractor on the farm.

Why should we blame others when the problem is within us, inside? It is not from the outside, but first and foremost from inside. And I wanted to tell you I was not going to talk about these things at all. I had not intended to raise them.

They were not part of the things I noted for myself and which appear on these papers; but after I had heard the remarks by those colleagues who, I admit, made a very great effort, really a very great effort, I found it necessary first of all that we should have the truth among us. Let us not look for truth among others, let us first have it here, among us, even if it is not convenient, even if it is not pleasant.

In my opinion, if we want to be able to deal with the problems confronting us, and existential problems are confronting us, we must first and foremost settle our own affairs. We must first and foremost begin with the issues inside the Herut movement and, in my opinion, we must begin from the foundations.

We must convene a conference as soon as possible. [applause] We must convene a conference that will elect all the movement's institutions. Until the conference elections, no appointments should be made, under any circumstances; not the chairman of the secretariat nor any other post. [end videotape]

These were remarks made by Ari'el Sharon. Our correspondent on party affairs, Nisim Mish'al, comments about their significance from the Herut headquarters in Tel Aviv:

[Mish'al — live] Ari'el Sharon's speech surprised not only the prime minister, but all the Herut movement center's members. Ari'el Sharon's decision to break his silence about what is happening in the Herut movement has one clear meaning: Undermining the silent alliance that existed between Sharon's group and the camp of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, because the criticism levelled by Ari'el Sharon this evening was aimed at the prime minister, who prefers, at this stage, not to implement any changes in his Cabinet.

Another aspect of Sharon's words is his desire to create a new coalition in the Herut, to be based on his people and Minister David Levi's camp. Recently, Minister Sharon even met with MK Mikha Reiser, from Minister Levi's camp, and at that talk Minister Sharon expressed his willingness to cooperate with Minister David Levi. As far as we know, Minister Levi has not yet answered this appeal.

Another point from Sharon's remarks which is noteworthy is the possibility of convening the Herut movement conference in the near future. There are many elements in Herut who want such a conference, but it is doubtful if this will be done without the agreement of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his deputy, David Levi. In conclusion, Sharon's speech might lead to internal shuffles inside the Herut movement, but it is doubtful whether this will happen in the near future.

Cabinet To Discuss Further Lebanon Pullback Soon

TA131002 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The Cabinet will soon discuss the IDF's removal from Sidon and a redeployment in south Lebanon.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem believe that a further withdrawal is likely, notwithstanding the opposition of several ministers — above all, Minister Sharon. These ministers argue that any further unilateral Israeli withdrawal in southern Lebanon may weaken it and imperil the Galilee settlements. The United States will not object to an Israeli withdrawal south of the Al-Awwali line.

The opinion that it would be preferable to redeploy south of the Al-Awwali and pull out of Sidon is gaining more ground in Jerusalem. According to senior sources at the political-security echelon in Jerusalem, Sidon has become a hornet's nest, containing concentrations of the Shi'ite enemy, which is perhaps more dangerous than the Palestinian terrorists, although it does not possess any operational infrastructure yet. Sidon has gradually turned into a center for the struggle against the Israeli presence in Lebanon.

Senior sources point out that most of the recent IDF casualties in southern Lebanon, particularly in Sidon, were caused by the Shi'ite forces. Israel's attempts at a rapprochement with the Shi'ites have not been successful. It is against this backdrop that a growing number of ministers see an IDF pullout from Sidon as imperative.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has thus far refrained from making any decision on an IDF redeployment south of the Al-Awwali, as he feared such a move could be interpreted as a sign of Israeli weakness and strengthen Damascus' argument against a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens disagree about policy pertaining to the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Shamir thinks that Israel should reap the maximum from Syria's present weakness in Lebanon because of President al-Asad's illness, and believes that Syria might gain a strategic advantage from any further Israeli withdrawal.

Some ministers have expressed the view that the security situation will in the end be the decisive factor in the debate expected to be held in the Cabinet on the pullout from Sidon.

The military echelon has prepared proposals for a redeployment in southern Lebanon, specifying the advantages and the risks entailed in each proposal in anticipation of the forthcoming Cabinet debate.

The recommendation of the military echelon, as it emerges from most of the opinions, advocates redeployment in southern Lebanon.

Three IDF Soldiers Seriously Wounded in Lebanon

TA121706 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Three IDF soldiers have been seriously wounded in Lebanon. The IDF spokesman has reported that the three were wounded this afternoon by shots fired from ambush at an IDF convoy about 3 km south of the Az-Zahrani River. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the wounded were evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital. IDF forces are searching the area.

IDF Attacked in Tyre

TA122109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] This evening, shots from automatic weapons were fired at an IDF position on the outskirts of Tyre, but there were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the shots came from a local vehicle passing by the road. The IDF personnel returned fire, but the car managed to get away. The area is now being combed to capture the perpetrators.

Sidon Incident Reported

TA121612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] This afternoon a hand grenade was thrown in the center of Sidon at an IDF convoy. Nobody was hurt. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that IDF forces have closed off the area and begun to search. This morning an IDF armored personnel carrier ran over a mine in Sidon. Nobody was hurt.

Incident in An-Nabatiyah

TA131131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Two Israeli soldiers were slightly injured this morning when a grenade was thrown at them from a passing car near An-Nabatiyah. The Israeli military spokesman said the soldiers, who were on patrol, fired back at the vehicle as it sped away. The area is currently being searched for the attackers.

Peres Calls For Unilateral Israeli Withdrawal

TA121625 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The chairman of the Labor Party today repeated his call for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. In a speech to the people attending the Zionist Executive Committee meeting, Shim'on Peres said: We must guarantee the security arrangements in Lebanon unilaterally, which will lead to an Israeli withdrawal within the shortest possible period of time. Our correspondent has brought us some of Shim'on Peres' remarks:

[Begin recording][Unidentified correspondent] Israel has set four

security conditions, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said. The right to fly over Lebanon; the possibility of patrolling its coasts; turning Haddad's army into a regular brigade in the Lebanese forces; and the possibility of a reinforced Israeli presence in the territory to be evacuated. If we are waiting for Syrian agreement to implement these conditions, MK Peres went on, there will not be any such thing.

[Peres] There is nothing to wait for. Let us, unilaterally and immediately, implement those four conditions and permit our soldiers to return home, and save human lives, which is in itself a consideration, and save about $1 million a day, which is also a very burning consideration today. [end recording]

Commentary Cautions on Withdrawal

TA101146 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 84 p 8

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "The Dispute Over the Withdrawal"]

[Text] The public argument between the prime minister and defense minister, on the one hand, and "senior security elements," on the other, regarding the IDF's continued presence in Lebanon, has revealed one of the major disputes in Yitzhaq Shamir's government.

In fact, the roots of this dispute were already there on the morning of the Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf mountains, and the temporary deployment along the Al-Awwali River just delayed but did not prevent the public emergence of this dispute. The dispute revolves around one central point: Because Israel did not achieve its goals in the Lebanese war, how should it guarantee the peace of the Galilee for which it embarked on this war?

The senior security level does not believe in President al-Jumayyil's ability to set up a strong central government in Beirut; even less does it believe in the ability of the Lebanese Army to rehabilitate itself rapidly and to undertake responsibility for Lebanon's security in the future. Therefore, a continuing presence in Lebanon does not serve Israel's national goals and only disrupts the IDF's training programs and threatens the need to strengthen the army and prepare it, as soon as possible, for the next war. The continuing presence in Lebanon is then a result of a political decision and is not absolutely necessary for security reasons.

The prime minister and defense minister do not discount this assessment but act in the framework of the constraints imposed on them by the renewed understanding with the United States. During their recent visit to Washington, Shamir and Arens undertook not to implement additional Israeli withdrawals in Lebanon without prior coordination with Presidents Reagan and Al-Jumayyil. Even though Shamir and Arens did not commit themselves to a certain date, it was still clear to all that the IDF will remain in Lebanon until at least next summer.

However, two new developments have given rise to a renewed internal argument in Israel concerning the IDF's continued stay in Lebanon: the worsening of the economic situation and President al-Asad's speedy recovery from the heart attack he had in the middle of November.

It is mainly the more serious economic situation which made the dispute more poignant. After it was decided in principle to effect a 9 percent cut in the budgets of the various government ministries, an argument developed in the defense establishment as to what should be cut: Should various budget categories be cut or should the funds required to remain in Lebanon be eliminated and all resources dedicated to the strengthening of the army?

The factor that helps the "senior security elements" in their argument with their political superiors is the increasing pressure in Washington, Paris, London, and Rome to bring the Multinational Force [MNF] soldiers stationed in Lebanon back home. The general staffs in all four Western countries have also reached the conclusion that there is no point in keeping the MNF in Beirut and that there is no chance that a strong government, completely free of Syrian influence, will emerge in Beirut in the foreseeable future. France has already instructed one of its battalions in Beirut to return to service in the framework of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon. The British presence is symbolic, and Italy has decided to cut considerably the size of its participation in the MNF. Even the United States is reassessing its policy in Lebanon, and is seizing the renewed dialogue with Damascus to justify its exit from Lebanon.

Indeed, President al-Asad's return to activity, together with the evacuation of 'Arafat's terrorists from Tripoli, have enhanced Washington's hope that it will be possible to reach some settlement with Damascus as well. The Saudi mediation efforts, made with U.S. blessing, are aimed at this goal. It is even unnecessary to note that any Saudi-Syrian-Lebanese agreement reached with the quiet blessing of the United States must be at the expense of the Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. agreement reached on 17 May.

Under these conditions Israel must consider its moves only on the basis of purely Israeli interests. If the United States is seeking ways to bypass the renewed understanding with Israel, as achieved during Shamir's and Arens's visit to Washington, there is no reason Israel, too, should not seek ways to free itself from this understanding and decide on its next moves in Lebanon solely in accordance with security considerations. If these considerations dictate an additional IDF withdrawal in Lebanon, as far south as the Litani River or even further south, there is no reason to delay this withdrawal until next summer.

Poll Finds 'Sizeable Minority' Favors Jewish Terror

TA130635 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 84 p 3

[*JERUSALEM POST* poll]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Although an overwhelming majority of the public oppose Jewish terror in response to Arab terrorism, a sizeable minority favours it, according to the latest *JERUSALEM POST* poll, conducted during the last two weeks of December by the Modi'in Ezrahi research institute. The figures, compiled from the responses of 1,292 adults, who do not live in Judaea

and Samaria, show that 71.9 percent oppose the creation of a Jewish group to fight terror with terror, while 18.7 percent favour the idea (9.4 percent had no opinion.)

Twice as many Likud voters polled support Jewish terrorism than do those who voted for the Alignment. Asked whether they support TNT [Terror Neged Terror; or Terror Against Terror], the group which has claimed responsibility for recent terror acts against Moslem and Christian targets, 26.2 percent of Likud voters support the group (63.3 percent against), compared to 13.2 percent of Alignment voters (81.6 percent opposed).

Among the "floating voters" with no declared political affiliation, 17.8 percent support Jewish terror and 68.9 percent oppose it. Those who did not respond to the question comprised 5.2 percent of the Alignment voters, 10.5 percent of the Likud and 13.3 percent of the floating voters.

Asked "Do you favour or oppose the internal organization of settlers in Judaea and Samaria to assure their safety?," 47.1 percent of all those polled opposed the idea, compared to 37.9 percent who favoured it and 15 percent who did not respond.

According to party affiliation, however, 49.4 percent of Likud voters favoured such an organization (35.1 percent opposed and 15.5 percent with no opinion), compared to 26.5 percent of Alignment voters (62.3 percent opposed and 11.2 percent with no opinion). In the floating vote category, 37.9 percent approved, 43.9 percent opposed and 18.2 percent were undecided.

'Senior Jordanian Personage' Invites MAPAM MK

TA130959 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0937 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] MAPAM MK Muhammad Watad was invited to visit Jordan to meet with Jordanian personages in Amman. MK Watad told our correspondent Sha'ul Stav that the invitation was extended by a senior Jordanian personage. It was transmitted through Judaea and Samaria Arab notables. Our correspondent reports that a month ago Muhammad Watad appealed to the Israeli authorities for approval of a trip to Amman. The approval has not yet been given. MK Watad said he is expecting an approval from the defense minister and if and when he receives this, he will appeal to the Knesset speaker to approve his trip. According to Watad, a trip by an Israeli MK to the Jordanian capital can promote the chance for a dialogue between the two countries.

Gaza Opinion on Jordanian Parliament Divided

TA131009 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] A group of Gaza notables, led by the head of the Red Crescent organization, are opposed to Jordan's decision to incorporate representatives from the territories in the Amman Parliament. According to them this undermines the Rabat conference resolutions whereby the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Our correspondent Moshe Halevi notes that another group of notables in Gaza, led by former Gaza Mayor Rashad Ash-Shawwa, calls for a solution of the Palestinian problem through political means and with Jordan's participation.

Former Gaza Mayor Meets With MAPAM Leaders

TA121430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Former Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa deplores the fact that Israel prevented him from visiting Jordan to discuss King Husayn's joining the peace process. According to him, the authorities informed him that the time was not suitable for this. He was speaking with MAPAM leaders in Tel Aviv.

Our correspondents Yosi Melman and Bassam Ja'bar note that MAPAM representatives intend to continue their talks with notables from the territories.

Calls For Settlement Freeze

TA121639 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Today, former Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa called upon the Government of Israel to stop the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, with the aim of furthering negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Ash-Shawwa disclosed that he had been scheduled to go to Jordan to persuade King Husayn to join the negotiations, but the Government of Israel prevented him. This was said at a meeting held between MAPAM leaders and Arab representatives from Gaza. Both sides expressed the hope that the meeting would be the first of its type, and that such contacts would continue in future. Our correspondent was also present at the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] How will it be possible for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to make contact with each other when one of them is forbidden to speak about political issues? It was with this question that the former Gaza mayor opened his remarks at a meeting held in Tel Aviv today between representatives from Gaza and MAPAM leaders. Ash-Shawwa called upon the government to stop evicting Arabs from their land in Judaea and Samaria, and to stop the settlements, in order to make some sort of dialogue possible and resume the frozen deliberations over autonomy. He explained to those present that he had come to speak personally. His views do not express the position of any organization of Palestinians, but do represent the view of the majority of the Arab public. [end recording]

Police Search for Weapons in Minority Villages

TA122017 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2008 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Nahal 'Iron, 12 (ITIM) — A large police force commanded by the commander of the 'Iron police, Superintendent Me'ir Sason, with the aid of border policemen and sappers from the Merhav Ha'amaqim headquarters, made widescale searches today for weapons and ammunition in minority villages in Nahal

'Iron. In the course of the search, a Kalashnikov rifle, as well as an ammunition clip and a large number of bullets for Kalashnikov and Carl-Gustaf rifles were found. Several people were arrested and the investigation is continuing.

Special Team To Handle Land Complaints Proposed

TA130529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The police want to set up a national unit which will investigate frauds and irregularities in the sale of lands in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that about 180 suits have been filed with police stations in the territories, mostly Arab complaints against Jewish land dealers. Police Investigations Division Head, Yehezqel Karti asked the police inspector general to set up a special team to deal with this matter. The police say that the local policemen lack the expertise and manpower necessary to handle this issue.

Shamir-Arens Differences Over Egypt Reported

TA131058 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jan Political Supplement p 4

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] Is it possible to extricate Israeli-Egyptian relations from the impasse they have found themselves in since the war in Lebanon first broke out?

Former Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who should be credited with achieving the peace agreement with Egypt, saw great importance in the very fact that peaceful relations exist between the two countries. He viewed the matter more from the historical-philosophical aspect than from the pragmatic angle. The incumbent, Yitzhaq Shamir, and the defense minister, Moshe Arens, do not feel the same measure of commitment to Israeli-Egyptian relations.

The U.S. Administration is not pleased with the state of relations between the two countries — which are describes as U.S. allies — and has asked its leaders to make goodwill gestures in order to improve the atmosphere. Recently some people in Jerusalem have been known to say that it may be worthwhile to try and make such moves toward Egypt.

Thus, for example, the view was voiced that the resumption of the Tabah talks should be initiated instead of insisting that they be held in Jerusalem of all places. It was also said that perhaps it would be advisable to respond to Cairo's appeals regarding talks about the "Canadian Camp" where several hundred Bedouin can be found, to permit them to cross into Israel and work here.

Those who hold these views contend that perhaps even if Israel makes such gestures, Cairo will not change its stance toward Jerusalem. In that case, for our part we will be able to say that we have exhausted every channel and have made the utmost effort.

It should be pointed out that on the Egyptian issue, too, differences of approach can be seen between Shamir and Arens, with the latter demonstrating a firmer stance than the former, unlike the positions he has expressed regarding Lebanon, which are more flexible than Shamir's.

'AL HAMISHMAR on Implications of Jordan's Actions

TA121228 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jan 84 p 3

[Pinhas 'Inbari commentary: "Confusing Signposts in the Territories"]

[Text] The political process in the Middle East is at a critical crossroads today, and there is almost no party involved in this process that is not required to make decisive decisions now.

We are witnessing an internal struggle in Jordan today. On the one hand Jordan convened the old Parliament, thus severely challenging the PLO's full right to represent the Palestinians, while, on the other hand, it called on Yasir 'Arafat to return to Amman to conclude the negotiations on joining the political process.

On the one hand, Jordan is lauding the Reagan plan; but, on the other, it has also called for the incorporation of the Soviet Union in the political process. It has expressed reservations and doubts about the Reagan plan.

The PLO's internal disputes give rise to tension as well. Following the Lebanese war, and especially after the bitter lesson of Tripoli, the PLO has lost the military option, and 'Arafat's decision to join the political process breaches the unity of its ranks. Many decisions connected with the question of whether the Middle East will know war or peace in the coming years depend on the West Bank now. Israel is not free of these internal conflicts. A great deal depends on Israel's decision, too.

The Palestinian problem is a dangerous one for Jordan, too, and it places a heavy burden on it. In principle Jordan wants to rid itself of this burden and to find a reasonable solution to the problem. The source of its apprehension is the fear it will find itself conducting sterile negotiations with the Israeli Government. It is aware of the Likud government's ideological positions and is following with increasing concern the settlement policy, which may eliminate all options for solving the Palestinian problem on the West Bank and cause its explosion on the eastern bank.

Jordan is at a crossroads but lacks sufficient information to make a decision: The objective conditions are ripe for the adoption of a positive decision, but the signpost leading to talks with Israel points to a dead end. The Israeli policy in the territories is not based purely on ideology either. The new post-Sharon-Milson team understand that boycotting the population in the territories will cause a deterioration in Israel's status, while renewing the relations severed due to the policy built on the area Village Leagues may result in important opportunities to improve the relations with the inhabitants of the territories.

However, the residents of the territories are not made of the same mettle. They have varied opinions. The choice of one group or another means the adoption of a policy which goes beyond a mere resumption of dialogue. There are Jordanian supporters and there are PLO supporters, there are supporters of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and there are communists and supporters of George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah. These groups do not necessarily live in peace with each other, nor do they necessarily quarrel with one another.

If Israel relies on Jordan's supporters, for instance, will it be prepared to go as far as entering serious negotiations with Jordan? If Israel seeks channels of dialogue with PLO supporters, will it try to take advantage of their good services for a historic reconciliation with the Palestinians? The improvement of relations with the inhabitants of the territories is a desirable development in itself and should be welcomed, but it is sterile if it is not backed by real willingness to tread one of the paths extending from that neverchanging crossroads in the territories.

In order to complicate matters even further, the chart of signposts is not simple or easily decipherable; it is not so easy to decipher today who is a real Jordan supporter and who is a PLO supporter. It seems to this writer that the navigators of Israel's policy in the territories still are indulging in memories of distant days when the political system was headed by a group of figures of the Hebron Shaykh al-Ja'bari type.

The old shaykh died, and it is not his followers or disciples who are leaders in the territories today. Since the days of Al-Ja'bari, relations between Jordan and the PLO have improved. Even now, after the Jordanian Parliament which represents both banks of the Jordan River has been reconvened in Amman, it is inconceivable to anyone that Husayn will enter the political process alone, without real Palestinian support represented by 'Arafat, especially when everyone knows that the negotiations with Israel will be very difficult.

This development is not necessarily bad for Israel. The PLO's supporters in the territories are not the same bloodthirsty terrorists described by the Israeli term. On the contrary, the link with Jordan has turned the PLO's supporters, of all people, into the major spokesmen for peace, mutual recognition, and reconciliation between the two peoples.

A magazine which supports 'Arafat's PLO, *AL-BAYDAR AS-SIYASI*, came out this week with a colored headline along the lines of "No to Political Terror." The editorial called on the Palestinians to finally sober up from the illusions of armed struggle. With such PLO supporters Israel can surely open a dialogue. Israel is happy about the convening of the Jordanian Parliament and it allowed the elderly delegates from the West Bank to leave for Amman with the hope that Jordan wants to free itself from the PLO completely. It is doubtful whether this is a new Jordanian policy indeed. Even if this is so, Israel should remember that the new generation of Palestinians in the territories have not known Jordanian rule, and was raised and educated on the recognition that the PLO stands for its national hopes. Al-Ja'bari will not be revived. Jordan knows this, but will Israel also be aware of this?

Egyptian-PLO Complaint on West Bank Law Rejected

TA130758 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Last night Israel informed the UN Security Council that it does not intend to extend Israeli law to Judaea and Samaria to replace Jordanian law. This was included in a message which Israeli UN Ambassador Yehuda Blum sent to the UN Security Council president in reaction to complaints by Egypt and the PLO that Israel intends to annex the territories, as it were. Arye Mecked reports from UN headquarters in New York:

[Begin recording] The message which Yehuda Blum sent to the president of the UN Security Council states that Israel does not intend to alter the practice of Jordanian law in Judaea and Samaria and that Israel also does not intend to change its international commitments regarding the territories. Ambassador Blum's message is in reaction to an official complaint submitted by the PLO and Egypt which states that last week the Knesset endorsed extending emergency regulations to the territories. The complaint contends that this is evidence of Israel's annexation intentions and is an attempt to replace Jordanian law with Israeli law, contrary to the Camp David accords and to UN Security Council Resolution 242.

In his message the Israeli ambassador explained that the emergency regulations are routinely extended every 2 years, and that this time the Knesset has amended them to eliminate legal loopholes so Israelis residing in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will not escape their legal responsibilities, especially in taxation. As said, Blum stressed this should not be viewed as preparation for annexation.

The Israeli UN mission has recently also conducted an intensive public relations campaign at UN headquarters in order to explain Israel's position on this issue and in order to prevent a convening of the UN Security Council to debate Israel's so-called annexation intentions. It is worth noting that Israelis at UN headquarters are worried about Egypt's extensive activities on this issue, seeing them as a harbinger of anti-Israeli activities in the UN Security Council by Egypt which became a full Security Council member at the beginning of the month. [end recording]

Ambassador Meets Egyptian Foreign Minister

TA121752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Israeli ambassador in Egypt met today with the Egyptian foreign minister. They discussed the state of relations between the two countries, what is happening in the territories, and the chances for continuing the peace process.

DAVAR Analyzes Egyptian Military Growth

TA121351 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Jan 84 p 7

[Tali Zelinger commentary: "Red Light From the South"]

[Text] In the economy-Lebanon-economy-Lebanon whirlpool there is very little time and mental energy to deal with anything

else. Syria, with its strengthening Army, is making the headlines in the Lebanese context, and this diverts attention from the economy to a certain degree. A senior officer lately remarked ironically: "Wait a little while longer; spring will come; Passover will be at the door; and all the economic problems will be solved. Have you ever gone through a Passover without an alert and without public hysteria regarding Syria?"

However, while the eyes are directed northward, a murmur is heard from the south. There has been talk recently about a cooling peace with Egypt, about worsening diplomatic relations and trade.

An attempt to check out details and shed light on them meets with Israeli nervousness. The fear of the collapse of the delicate fabric of Israeli-Egyptian relations, and the knowledge of the degree of sensitivity and concern about each written or oral word, decreases the preoccupation with this issue, which seems secondary nowadays although it is not at all so.

The Egyptian Army is undergoing a process of strengthening. Its strengthening does not necessarily stem from an increase in size, but from a change in the concept regarding the Army's structure and war doctrine. In 2 years, so the experts predict, the Egyptian Army will be different: more Western, more mobile, more efficient, and as usual the largest.

Since the Yom Kippur war the size of the Egyptian Army has been reduced almost to half, without any harm being caused to combat forces. In the years that have elapsed since the Yom Kippur war, when the enlisted manpower was 800,000 soldiers, the Egyptian Army has become more efficient and the number of soldiers is about 400,000. The Egyptian Army today has 11 divisions and is currently undergoing a process of freeing itself from Eastern arms and the Soviet war doctrine which relies mainly on solid, dense defense. The gradual shift to mechanized divisions will increase the strategic mobility of the Egyptian Army, which is directing worried eyes toward the demilitarized Sinai desert, since the danger of Israeli invasion comes through there and Egypt will have to transfer to the desert forces that are not there now. Receiving U.S. and other Western arms, and refurbishing and modernizing the armored combat vehicles are the external signs of the change taking place in the Egyptian warfare doctrine.

The dire economic situation in Egypt and the social tension resulting from it continually provide the Egyptian Army with the work of maintaining public order and operating various public plants and services. The Egyptian defense minister and chief of staff are nowadays seen inaugurating bakeries more than watching military maneuvers. However, the Egyptian public announcements of each large or small maneuver, Egyptian, or in combination with others, indicate that the Egyptians understand the need to maintain a high military profile. What is viewed as an Egyptian victory and achievement, the evacuation of the Sinai by Israel, is still a wound to the Egyptian pride: According to the military annex to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, Egypt's desire to exercise ownership over their desert property has not been satisfied. Beyond the question of prestige, the demilitarization of the Sinai is a security hazard for Egypt which is afraid of a violent Israeli action such as the one carried out in Lebanon.

Due to its concern about such an Israeli move, Egypt is trying to keep the rules set in the military annex of the peace treaty, and in some of the zones the number of artillery pieces and armored personnel carriers [APC's] is smaller than permitted by the treaty.

The Egyptians find compensation for the weakness in the Sinai in the closer relations with the Americans, this too being a result of the peace treaty. The Americans are doing quite a bit to compensate the Egyptians for what appears to be their weakness. They provide them with F-16 planes (at least 80 planes), refurbish the Eastern-made, obsolete Egyptian tanks (they are selling modern M-50A-3 tanks to the Egyptians) and refurbish their APC's. However, the Americans sell things, they do not give gifts, and the Egyptians have no money. This constraint compels Egypt to settle for less equipment, but the best equipment,and to make maximum use of it.

The results of this constraint will be felt in the quality of the Egyptian Army in the coming years, the experts warn. The Egyptians want to refrain from total dependence on the United States such as they had on the Soviet Union. Therefore, Egypt is broadening the circle of countries with which it is trading in arms: Britain, France, Italy, Romania, and even the PRC. At the same time the Egyptians aspire to reach independence in producing the means of warfare. This aspiration has so far resulted in the production of spare parts for existing arms, and an APC with somewhat poor quality. However, this is a start; the IDF too reached the production of the Merkava tank only after small steps it had taken over a large number of years.

The target for this modernizing Army is not necessarily Israel. Libyais threatening Egypt continually, albeit not daily. It is threatening Egypt also through attempts to undermine the regime in Sudan, Egypt's "good" neighbor. The Egyptians are then preoccupied with guarding Sudan, watching Libya closely, and worrying about Israel's moves. The stability of the regime in Egypt itself is another task which requires forces. It appears that the Egyptians are in control of all these tasks. Whoever claims that the absence of an Egyptian aerial superiority eliminates or decreases the danger of the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Egypt forgets the mood prevailing before the Yom Kippur war. It was the Egyptians, after all, who started the war then. Therefore, even if Egypt is in the midst of a process which is not expected to culminate in a real "strategic balance" with Israel (a balance which it is aiming at just as much as Syria), this does not lessen the dangers and risks lurking in the Egyptian Army today and in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, as said, Egypt is very careful. The high echelons are willing and able to prevent penetrations into Israeli territory by hostile terrorists, for instance.

The Egyptians today want to continue the peace strategy, but nobody can promise us that this will be the case in 2 years. Those who are in charge of the political relations with Egypt should be alert to the security importance of maintaining the existing political framework. Those who are in charge of security on the southern front should be aware of the military danger but careful enough not to raise tensions there, precisely because of the real presence of danger.

Jerusalem Arabic on PLO Fragmentation

JN100703 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Observation by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Some still believe or wish to believe that Yasir 'Arafat's organizations have not been definitely fragmented in the wake of all that has taken place in Tripoli, but many signs and indications show that this fragmentation has reached a very advanced and permanent stage. Perhaps one of the most prominent signs of this fragmentation is the statement issued in Damascus yesterday, and signed by the Palestinian command, in which the signatories stated that the Central Committee of 'Arafat's organization is illegal and that the current [PLO] Executive Committee meeting is also illegal. The signatories of the aforementioned statement are the heads of the organizations which are sponsored by the Syrian Ba'thist regime and which take their instructions from Damascus. Some of these heads are the leaders of As-Sa'iqah, the Popular Front, and the Democratic Front, and Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the so-called PNC.

Of course, the aforementioned statement confirms what the signatories had reiterated on more than one occasion; that Yasir 'Arafat no longer represents the Palestinians — as if he originally and rightfully had been representing the Palestinians. Though the fragmentation of Yasir 'Arafat's organizations has become a reality, we find it necessary here to recall that many of the heads of these organizations had been calling for this fragmentation and division for the past year, but not in the manner in which it ook place in Tripoli. Shafiq al-Hut has been one of those who called for fragmentation. Shafiq al-Hut even asserted his demand in the Kuwaiti paper *AL-ANBA'* on 24 January 1983.

The following are some examples of what he wrote in this respect: Today, after the earthquake, after the illusions have been dissipated, and after the emergence of the truth which is as bright as the sun, no free Arab can accept this joke any longer, the so-called national unity which in reality is nonpatriotic hypocrisy whose only objective is to proceed with the formula of coexistence among organizations that have contradictory programs.

Shafiq al-Hut then wonders: Why then this concern over unity? What prevents the introduction of an honest political division in accordance with definite political programs, and why do the heads of the organziations fear the judgment of the man of the street on what they say and propose? The heads of the Palestinian people and their secretaries general have not come to power through heredity or as a result of elections. These are some statements by Shafiq al-Hut, one of the pillars of 'Arafat's organizations who has been one of the advocates of an honest political division of 'Arafat's organizations.

Now, and after this division has taken place through Al-Baddawi, Nahr al-Barid, and Tripoli, the question that needs to be asked is the following: What have the Palestinians gained from Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his like, the other heads of organizations who are manipulating their cause? For the Palestinians, the outcome of this division has been the shedding of more of their blood and that of their sons who had been led astray, not to mention the tragedies, dispersion, and destruction, and the continued revolving of their cause in a vicious circle.

The outcome of this division with respect to Yasir 'Arafat has been his expulsion from Damascus, which was followed by his deportation from Tripoli, and his becoming a losing card.

OAU Communique Blames Habre for Conference Failure
AB130801 Paris AFP in English 0757 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 13 (AFP) — The roundtable conference arranged by the Organization of African Unity to end the Chadian civil war collapsed in failure here last night, without ever having got off the ground, with the blame for the failure put squarely at the doorsteps of the Ndjamena government delegation by the OAU.

A communique released by the OAU early today said the talks collapsed because of the emphasis on the delegation of President Hissein Habre on "marginal and protocol" matters.

The Ndjamena delegation was said to have refused to negotiate with the opposition Goukouni alliance without its right to displaying the Chadian flag at the conference table being respected.

The communique said the Ndjamena delegation "declined" to accept alternative proposals to negotiate as a "government" with the Goukouni alliance without the Chadian flag in front of it.

"It is very unfortunate that the government delegation which should have shown magnanimity by demonstrating its willingness to engage in a meaningful discussion had to deprive months of ceaseless and relentless effort aimed at bringing about national reconciliation amongst the Chadian people of the slightest chance of success," the communique added.

It went on: "The absence of President Hissein Habre, whose presence could have contributed greatly to the success of the meeting, is deeply regretted."

The roundtable conference, aimed at bringing together the 11 Chadian factions that signed the 1979 Lagos accord, to negotiate a new and lasting settlement for their war-torn state, was to have opened on Monday but got bogged down over procedural problems.

The 11-page OAU communique, which detailed the steps taken in advance to ensure the success of the conference, said "the honours that were to be accorded to the president of Chad as well as sitting arrangements in the conference hall were discussed in great detail and full understanding reached on these issues."

This was clearly a response to the reasons advanced in Ndjamena for Mr Habre's decision to stay away, namely that Mr Goukouni was given a welcome fit for a chief of state by the Ethiopian leader and OAU chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, when he arrived here for the meeting on Sunday.

The Ndjamena government delegation here immediately denied today's allegations.

Livestock Minister Adoum Moussa Seif said: "We came here respecting the undertakings of the OAU, which indicated to us that it was a question of a meeting between a government and its opposition."

Mr Seif thanked Lt Col Mengistu for his "praiseworthy efforts," but said that "the intransigence of the opposition had not made his task easy."

"We still hope that another meeting can take place in better circumstances, either at the initiative of the OAU, or that of other friendly countries," he added.

The "minor problems of protocol" which had caused the conference to fail "could have been settled beforehand," Mr Seif said.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Reelected With 95 Percent of Vote

LD130042 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0002 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Summary] Minister of the Interior M'Hamed Hadj Y'ala has announced the final results of the Algerian presidential election:

"Thus, as has been pointed out by Brother Muhammad Haj Y'ala, minister of interior, President Chadli Bendjedid has been elected president of the republic, with 95.36 percent of the recorded vote."

More on Election Results

BK130204 Hong Kong AFP in English 0137 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Algiers, Jan 13 (AFP) — Algerian leader Chadli Bendjedid was reelected president yesterday with the support of 95.36 percent of those who voted, Interior Minister M'hamed Hadj Yala announced here. He said only 56,462 votes were cast against Mr Chadli's second five-year mandate, while 9,684,168 people voted for him. The president was the only candidate.

Mr Yala said voter turnout was 96.27 percent.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Takes Credit for 'Arafat's Safety

LD121513 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Jan (JANA) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the commander of the Great 1 September revolution, has spoken about the role played by Brother Kamal ad-Din Husayn, member of the Egyptian 23 July revolution Command Council, in saving the life of Yasir 'Arafat and securing his safe departure from Tripoli in Lebanon.

He said: Had it not been for Kamal ad-din Husayn's efforts and his visit to me, a catastrophe would have taken place in Tripoli, Lebanon. He added: Yasir 'Arafat is indebted to me and to Kamal ad-din Husayn for his safety and his still being alive.

Al-Qadhdhafi was speaking during a press interview he gave recently to AFP, REUTERS, TASS, SANA and American TV's channel 6. [not further identified] He said that 'Arafat was in an extremely difficult situation in Tripoli, and that he was exposed to annihilation. But then Kamal ad-Din Husayn came to me and asked me to help because he had met Yasir 'Arafat during the Tripoli blockade. So I guaranteed 'Arafat's safe departure in return for Kamal ad-Din Husayn's guarantee that 'Arafat would leave and would not cling to Fatah, which was fighting him.

The brother commander added that Kamal ad-Din Husayn guaranteed that 'Arafat would leave, and I, on my part, guaranteed 'Arafat's safe departure and that Tripoli would not be stormed by force after he left. Things went as promised. Had it not been for Kamal ad-Din Husayn's efforts and his visit to me, a catastrophe could have taken place, he said.

New Chadian Movement Cables Al-Qadhdhafi

LD121008 Tripoli JANA in English 0933 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Rabi Thani 8, Jan 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The setting up of the new Chadian popular revolutionary movement,led by Abdelgader Kamoudji, has been announced in Brazzaville. The movement is affiliated with the Chadian National Unity Government of Goukouni Oueddei.

The movement has sent a telegram to the revolution's leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, expressing the movement's members gratitude for the Jamahiriyah's support and assistance to the Chadian people in their struggle for unity and stability.

The telegram also expressed the unity of the Chadian and Libyan people and the brethren ties between the two peoples.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccan King's Envoy

LD130018 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution tonight received Ahmad Rida Guedira, special envoy of Moroccan King Hassan II, who handed the brother leader a message from King Hassan II.

Also, the brother leader of the revolution today received Fisseha Desta, member of the COPWE Executive Committee (COPWE), who handed the leader an official letter from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Malta

LD122127 Tripoli JANA in English 1908 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 8, Jan 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — An agreement on joint cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Malta has been concluded. The agreement includes joint cooperation in economic and information sectors for the interests of both friendly people.

The agreement has been signed by Musa Abu Furaywah, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industry, and Dr Carmelo Magsoud Bounnicci, the Maltese deputy prime minister.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Attends Council of Ministers Meeting

LD121847 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The grand combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, presided over a Council of Ministers meeting which was held this morning at Government House, at the Kasbah.

Following the deliberations, Information Minister Abderrazak Kefi announced that the grant combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, after opening the meeting, recalled the instructions he issued to the government on Friday on reconsidering the general state budget in accordance with the bold decision he made to stop enforcement of the decision to suspend bread and flour subsidies, a decision he made because of his care for the conditions of the poor and his great sympathy for the needy and deprived sons of Tunisia.

The president of the republic issued his instructions regarding measures to be taken to find new sources to meet the needs of the compensation fund while ensuring the general balance of the budget, and easing the burden on people with low incomes.

The Council of Ministers then reviewed the general situation in the country. The grand combatant expressed his deep gratitude for the true feelings of attachment the Tunisian people had shown him and for their adherance to the republican regime. He praised the security forces and the army, who as usual performed their duties with full honesty and dedication.

He also praised the workers, who with zeal and patriotism defended their institutions and thus protected the production centers from the saboteurs. The president also praised the National Assembly for its support for the supremacy of law and legitimacy in the country.

In view of the seriousness of the events which took place in the country and the implications involved, President Habib Bourguiba has ordered the formation of an investigation committee to define who was responsible, and to find out the various motives and reasons behind the disturbances, particularly those in Tunis on 3 January.

In accordance with the president's instructions, those detained during the incidents whose involvement in the acts of violence and sabotage were not proven, have been released. Those whose involvement in these crimes has been established will be referred to the competent courts.

Es-Sebsi Interviewed on Current Arab Situation

GF120844 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 11 Jan 84 pp 1, 13

[Report by *AL-KHALIJ* correspondent in Tunis, Ghassan Tahbub]

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi has announced that Tunisia will support the decisions that are adopted by the legitimate Palestinian institutions.

Es-Sebsi said: "We deal with Yasir 'Arafat as the PLO chairman and we will cooperate with any chairman who is elected by the legitimate Palestinian institutions." He affirmed that "Tunis refuses to interfere in the PLO's internal affairs". He also stated that Tunisia's stance toward Egypt stems from the decision which was adopted by the Arab countries after it signed a unilateral peace agreement with Israel. He pointed out that "the Arab world lost a lot of its credibility after Egypt's departure from the Arab ranks". He added: "In the event 'Arafat succeeds in getting the PLO to adopt a decision to establish relations with Egypt, this will lead to many changes."

Beji Caid es-Sebsi said: "The current Arab situation is difficult, delicate and corrupt. The Arabs should not hide their heads in the sand like an ostrich and there is no alternative to their meeting in order to solve their problems and handle this serious phase which the Arab nation is passing through."

The Tunisian minister affirmed that his country "refuses to interfere in the PLO's affairs and among the consisitent Tunisian policies is that of dealing with any Palestinian stance which is adopted by the PLO, whether it is about its leadership or its policies".

In his interview with *AL-KHALIJ* at his office in the Tunisian capital yesterday, Caid es-Sebsi pointed out that "Tunisia is watching the results of the current Palestinian meetings and dialogues, that it regrets the rift among the Palestinian brothers, and that it will support any decisions adopted by the legitimate Palestinian institutions". He asserted that "Tunisia's relations with Yasir 'Arafat exist because he is the PLO's chairman, and they will continue to exist with any PLO chairman." He said: "It is not Tunisia's right to judge Yasir 'Arafat because this is the duty of the legitimate Palestinian institutions. If those institutions choose someone else, then Tunisia will deal with their new choice."

Referring to Tunisia's stance on inviting Egypt to the Islamic summit conference which will be held in Rabat on 16 January, and then to the Arab summit in March, Caid es-Sebsi said: "There is a lot of talk about this issue, but the Tunisian stance is clear and well known. Tunisia has no dispute or problem with Egypt, nor with the Egyptian people, and regards the Egyptian people as noble Arab people. Tunisia's stance toward Egypt came as a result of a unanimous decision adopted by the Arab countries after Egypt signed a unilateral peace agreement with Israel."

Caid es-Sebsi said: "No one can deny that the Arab nation lost a lot, and the Arab world lost a lot of its credibility because of Egypt's departure from the Arab ranks. Also, Arab actions in the struggle against Israel, particularly military actions, lost a lot of their effect and the resulting imbalance in the Arab equation due to Egypt's departure could not be rectified until now."

Caid es-Sebsi said: "But if the reasons for which Egypt's membership in the Islamic conference and Arab ranks were frozen are eliminated, then things would be different. So the question is whether they have been eliminated. This is a big question mark. If the issue is proposed to us, we shall discuss it. It was proposed to us in Fes, but the Fes conference did not adopt any decision."

Answering a question about the statements made by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri more than once, that the Fes summit adopted an unwritten decision or has reached an understanding among its members permitting Arab countries to establish unilateral relations with Egypt, the Tunisian foreign affairs minister said: "Ask the Sudanese president. I do not have any knowledge about such a decision or agreement." He added: "It is known

that Sudan does not await such an agreement since it did not severe its relations with Egypt, nor did it abide by the Baghdad summit resolutions. So why should it be awaiting such an agreement?"

Answering a question on what he expects will happen on the Arab level if Yasir 'Arafat succeeds in getting the PLO to adopt a decision to establish relations with the Egyptian regime, the Tunisian foreign affairs minister said: "A Palestinian decision of this kind is important. And no doubt it will have a great effect,and will change the circumstances. There are Arab countries which did not abide by the Baghdad summit resolutions, but no Arab stance was adopted toward them. The PLO differs from those countries. It has a special position. Granted, each country and organization has the right to change its position. But until now, the basis of Arab efforts have been severing relations and even ending business dealings with private companies which deal with Israel."

So what about an Arab country in which the Israeli flag flies and its ambassador resides? He said: "If the PLO — which has the right — changes its position, we shall consider it an important event, and discuss it, as well as discuss the issue of Egypt's return."

"As for Tunisia, we do not have any particular dispute with the Egyptian people, and the relations which are severed now are a result of a collective Arab stance, and because Egypt signed the Camp David accord."

The Tunisian foreign affairs minister expressed his discontent with the current Arab situation and said: "Joint Arab efforts are difficult and delicate. But this does not mean that we should not meet, fearing the difficulty of the task. He said: "We should meet to tackle our problems or to advise each other; because the situation is delicate, corrupt, and difficult, and we cannot hide our heads in the sand like an ostrich." He added: "I am not optimistic, but we should continue the efforts."

Commenting on Tunisia's view on the recent proposal by King Husayn to change the joint Arab method so that it will be based on a majority rather than unanimity, Caid es-Sebsi said: "This idea is subject to study if proposed to us or proposed to the Arab League. Tunisia is not against any proposals; the Arab method actually lacks proposals."

"We are demanding results and the establishment of a political plan which benefits the Arab group. He added: "No doubt, the joint Arab structural method should be developed, because laws and charters are not goals in themselves. Each law and charter is subject to review, except the Koran."

Caid es-Sebsi denied that Tunisia was apprised of any proposal dealing with changing or amending the Fes plan or merging it with the French-Egyptian plan and proposing it to the Security Council. He said: "We are ready to study any proposal, but the state which launches the plan should ensure the PLO's approval first, because it is a matter which concerns the Palestinians most of all."

Tunis University Students Boycott Classes

LD121406 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The schools and universities closed during the bread riots last week reopened in Tunisia today. However, students at the University of Tunis have decided to boycott classes for an unspecified period in order to obtain the release of their fellow students imprisoned during the rioting. Few students showed up in the classrooms this morning.

WESTERN SAHARA

More on Polisario Official's Remarks on Morocco

LD121158 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Algiers, 12/1/84 (APS) — Mr Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, Politburo member and responsible for the Polisario Front's external relations declared yesterday in Algiers that: "The year 1984 starts in the north-west African region as the year of the great conspiracy against peace".

The Sahraui responsible, who estimated that the Moroccan king "has taken the serious responsibility to undermine chances of peace", defined by the OAU and by the UN, recalled the motivations of the internal policy inciting the Moroccan king, to carry on the Western Sahara war.

"It is first of all, he said, to remove the Moroccan Army away which constitutes a potential danger for the survival of the throne and to rally certain Moroccan political leaders to make sure of their complicity in the oppression of the Moroccan people so as to face the people's contestation which has hardly shaken the feudal and staggering regime".

"It is also to [word indistinct] of Western Sahara to resolve the numerous socioeconomic difficulties, he added.

After having recalled "great concessions" made by his country at the diplomatic level, notably at the OAU in favoring the peace process, Mr Ould Salek estimated that this attitude, if it has aided the consolidation of the pan-African organization, it has been exploited by Morocco and its financial backers to continue the war.

He said that after the signature of the 5 August 1979 peace accord (with Mauritania), the withdrawal of this country from war, and before successive debacles undergone by the Moroccan Army with the elimination of mobile grouping-Ouhoud and Zellaga [spelling as received] created with the support of extra-African powers, the USA and France increased their intervention in the conflict.

Evoking the new military strategy of Rabat, Mr Ould Salek indicated that Morocco despatched between Bucraa and Angola [as received] about 40,000 men among the crack units so as to build a new defensive wall which would deploy at the Mauritanian border. He strongly indicated that his people will oppose this strategy and will thwart it.

On the diplomatic plan, he stressed that the SDAR wants henceforth to fully assume its responsibility, within the OAU he rejected on Morocco the consequences of an aggravation of the conflict and the split of the OAU. [sentence as received]

On another turn, he accused Morocco of doing its best "for undermining chances of the edification of the great Maghreb. Finally, and as an answer to a question, he said that Libya is and will remain the Sahraui people's ally".

DJIBOUTI

Repatriation of Ethiopian Refugees Noted

EA122043 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees who are in the Republic of Djibouti continues. The 11th group of such refugees, numbering 477 persons, left the town of Ali-Sabih this morning on their way to Ethiopia.

The group, which comprises 109 families, has agreed to be repatriated to Ethiopia voluntarily.

The Ethiopian refugees from the camps at Ali-Sabih and Dikhil regions will be settled in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian refugees who have voluntarily returned home so far number 8,000 persons.

The voluntary repatriation of the refugees this morning was supervised by offic als from the Republic of Djibouti and the UN High Commission for Refugees.

KENYA

Unnamed Ex-French President Implicated in Trial

EA121139 Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English 12 Jan 84 p 1

["Ex-French President Linked With Guns Import" by Charles Kulundu and Job Githinji]

[Excerpt] Mr Charles Mugane Njonjo maintained close contact with the French finance minister, who later became the president of France, in the importation of sophisticated weapons into the country, a witness stated in Nairobi yesterday.

The finance minister came to Kenya in 1971 on a hunting trip accompanied by another French farmer, Mr Henri Roussel, who owns the Ol Jogi Ranch in Laikipia.

They were helped by the former minister for constitutional affairs to import into Kenya very powerful weapons, the witness said.

The startling revelation was made by the senior supt. of police in charge of the Central Firearms Bureau. Mr Douglas Allan Walker, yesterday at the resumed hearing of the judicial commission of inquiry into the conduct of Njonjo.

Walker told the commission that Njonjo specifically asked him to help the unnamed finance minister to bring into the country seven powerful guns for which he issued an import licence No. 11599 at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in July 1971.

SOMALIA

Siad Barre Receives Burundi Foreign Minister

EA121548 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The SDR president, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, last night received at the Presidency visiting Burundi Foreign Minister Mr Laurent Nzeyimana and his delegation. Mr Nzeyimana conveyed to the SDR president a message from the president of Burundi. Talks on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries were held.

6 Reported Dead in DFSS Attack in Waajid

EA112051 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Fighters from the 3d General Gabayreh Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of theSomali opposition forces, have launched a very successful attack on the outskirts of (Gobaato) village in Waajid District, northern [as heard] Somalia, killing six and wounding 11 members of the loyalist forces of dictator Siad Barre.

The fighters of the 3d General Gabayreh Division of the DFSS wing executed this brave action in January, 1984. The successful attack by the DFSS fighters was inflicted on the 39th Battalion of Seventh Brigade of the Somali forces headed by Lt Muhammad Jinow.

Other reports reaching us from the same area say that six former Somali soldiers have defected to the DFSS fighters. The defectors were lead by Abdi Ahmad Farah. On 3 January, the 3d Division of the DFSS Forces received three civilians from abroad led by Abdi Muhammad (Bultaleh).

TANZANIA

Nyerere, Jumbe Affirm Zanzibar's Ties to State

EA121931 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Zanzibar — The chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, Ndugu Aboud Jumbe, declared today that the union between Tanzania and Zanzibar was unquestionable. He said the union was there to stay.

Ndugu Jumbe was addressing a public rally to mark the climax of the 20th anniversary of the Zanzibar revolution. He lashed out at enemies who were trying to distort the recent debate on the proposals to amend the constitutions of the union and Zanzibar government. He said current problems now facing Zanzibar were not amendments of the constitution but the economic plight of the isles. He called on the islanders to increase production in the various economic sectors, and to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

He urged Tanzanians to be vigilant in defending their independence.

In his address, President Nyerere also urged Tanzanians to beware of their enemies who were exploiting our current economic situation to sow seeds of discord among Tanzanians.

Gabon Official Kassa-Mapsi Arrives 12 January
EA121950 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam — Prime Minister of Gabon Mr Emile Kassa-Mapsi [position as heard] arrived in Dar es Salaam today at the head of a seven-man delegation for talks with Tanzanian Government officials. The Gabonese delegation was met at the airport by Minister of Justice and Attorney General Ndugu Joseph Warioba.

CONGO

British Trade Minister Visits, Comments

AB111515 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The British delegation today continues its visit to Congo. Before leaving Brazzaville at 1100 [1000 GMT] for Pointe Noire, Mr Fletcher, the British minister of trade and industry, held talks with his Congolese counterparts, especially with the the Congolese minister of health and social affairs, and also with the ministers of transport and civil aviation; mines and energy; industry and fishing; as well as with the minister of finance. Yesterday he held talks with other Congolese ministers. After the series of talks with his Congolese counterparts this morning, Mr Fletcher briefed our reporter, Jean-Paul Villa, on these talks:

[Begin Fletcher recording in English followed by French translation] Relations between the Congo and the United Kingdom entered a new phase when we opened the British Embassy here. Members of your government have since visited London over the past years, and this is the first visit of a British minister to Congo in 24 years. We find the investment in the development of your economy is strong [words indistinct] it is expanding very rapidly and that is why I am here to see for myself the sort of projects that interest you and your government. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

RWANDA

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bangladesh

EA131123 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The Rwandan Government and the Government of Bangladesh officially announced yesterday the establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

ZAIRE

AZAP Reports Explosion at Njili Airport

AB122030 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1510 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 11 Jan (AZAP) — There was an explosion on Wednesday at 0300 hours in the customs section of the Njili International Airport in a consignment of luggage which had just been unloaded from the aircraft of an airline company whose name was not given.

The airport security service has not yet identified the owners of the luggage nor the nature of the explosion, the fires of which destroyed all the luggage and slightly damaged the customs department building.

Brussels Report on Explosion

LD121621 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] There has been a mysterious explosion at Ndjili Airport, Kinshasa in Zaire. The explosion occurred in the customs department and caused a fire which destroyed all the luggage which had been unloaded from an aircraft of the Soviet Aeroflot company. It is recalled by diplomatic sources in Kinshasa that two Soviet diplomats were expelled about 10 days ago for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status.

BENIN

Egypt's Ghali Sees Kerekou, Assesses PLO-Egypt Ties

AB112145 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Our great comrade in arms, President Kerekou, this morning held discussions at the Presidential Palace with Comrade Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, who has been on official visit to our country since yesterday. After the audience, the head of the Egyptian diplomatic service who was introduced to the president's office by his Beninese counterpart, Tiamiou Adjibade, answered questions from Sylvestre Zoumahou. Butrus Ghali said he was a bearer of a message from the Egyptian head of state, Husni Mubarak, to our great comrade in arms.

[Begin recording][Ghali] I had the honor of being received by the head of state President Kerekou. I delivered to him a written letter from his brother, President Husni Mubarak. It is a letter of solidarity and fraternity between the peoples of Benin and Egypt; between the two heads of state and between the two countries, both of which belong to the same continent and have opted for the same principles which govern international relations, through the Addis Ababa charter, which the two countries signed in 1963.

[Zoumahou] The international press finds in the recent visit made by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Cairo the beginning of a rapprochement between Egypt and the Palestinians. What do you think of that?

[Ghali] I think this rapprochement has always existed. The PLO has always had an office in Cairo, and for the last 7 years, I have been meeting the head of that office who is the diplomatic representative of the PLO in Cairo. I have often also met them in international conferences. Obviously, what is new is the contact made at the highest level between the Egyptian head of state and the head of the PLO. This contact has an extremely important value and indicates that we share the same options and goals, which are the liberation of Palestine and the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Signs Technical Cooperation Agreement

AB120942 Paris AFP in English 0851 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Cotonou, Jan 12 (AFP) — A technical cooperation agreement has been signed between the West African state of Benin and the Egyptian fund for technical cooperation in Africa.

Under the terms of the agreement, Egypt will provide experts and equipment for development projects in Benin and give loans to Beninese students.

The document was signed here by Egyptian Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali, who has been on an official visit to Benin, and his Beninese counterpart, Tiamiou Adjibade.

Joint Statement Issued

NC121945 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Egypt and Benin have reiterated the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of their own state under the legitimate leadership of the PLO, chaired by Yasir 'Arafat. The two countries also underscored the need for the Israeli forces' full withdrawal from Lebanon.

In a joint statement issued after the visit of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to Cotonou, Egypt and Benin condemned the policy of building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Regarding the Western Sahara problem, the two sides agreed to do their best to support the OAU's efforts to implement the resolutions of the 19th African summit held in Addis Ababa last June.

Dr Ghali and his Beninese counterpart also expressed hope that the Chadian national reconciliation conference will bring positive results. Regarding the Namibian problem, the two ministers called for implementing the UN Security Council resolution providing for Namibia's unconditional independence from South Africa. They also denounced the aggressive acts the racist South African Government perpetrates against the neighboring African countries.

Dr Ghali reviewed bilateral relations with his Beninese counterpart in order to promote economic, cultural, and technical cooperation between the two countries. They decided to form a joint cooperation committee, which will convene alternately in both countries.

GHANA

Rawlings Visit Reaffirms Historical Ties to Guinea

AB121905 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Station commentary: "The Visit of Chairman Rawlings to Guinea"]

[Text] The trip forms part of the recent series of visits to countries in west Africa to renew the ties of friendship and cooperation and in the process, remove any suspicions and prejudices generated in those countries by false reports about the Ghana revolution.

Beyond this, the Guinea visit focused attention on getting the ECOWAS off the ground, after so many years of stalemate; hence the presence of the delegation of the secretaries for foreign affairs, transport and communications, and lands and mineral resources, because these are areas covered most by the ECOWAS treaty.

But the visit to Guinea is in a special class of its own because of the historical bonds that unite the two countries. We are aware of the Ghana-Guinea Union of the late 50's, to be joined later by Mali. Though short-lived, it represented one real attempt at unity

in Africa. Ghana's help to Guinea in 1958 at its time of need when France withdrew all its technical aid following the "no vote" in the independence referendum is also well-known. Then, most important of all was the close collaboration between Ghana and Guinea in founding the OAU. The two countries had been leading members of the Casablanca group of radical nations that wanted immediate decolonization and unity of the continent. And they never stopped working for this ideal within the larger and more conservative OAU.

When Nkrumah was overthrown in a Western-inspired coup in 1966, Guinea felt the blow in a severe way. It received Kwame Nkrumah and made him co-president; and if anybody thinks this was a mere gesture, the imprint of Nkrumah's head on Guinea's currency even today testifies to the sincerity of the love of the Guinea people for Dr Nkrumah. At the mammoth rally held in honor of Chairman Rawlings yesterday, the crowd cheered wildly at every mention of Nkrumah's name. Beyond this, the visit also served to show up President Sekou Toure as a man of principle. Some people might have feared that the overthrow of the PNP [People's National Party] regime by Chairman Rawlings and the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] would have been taken bitterly by the Guinean leader because of his belief that that PNP was the successor to the CPP [Convention People's Party] of Dr Nkrumah; but even though this was what many people thought, the PNP actually betrayed Nkrumah's principles and by the time it was overthrown, it had forfeited any right to be called a successor to the CPP.

And by the warmth of his welcome to Chairman Rawlings, President Ahmed Sekou Toure demonstrated that he holds principle above personality and that what counts for him is, as he put it, that Rawlings is a hero, a man of principle fighting for the interest of his people and Africa in the true Nkrumah tradition.

One other lesson of the visit is that conscientization has been carried very far by the Guinea Democratic Party with the result that Guinea society has become more homogenous. The result is that there is the identification of all classes of people with the nation.

Participating in the parade at Conakry stadium were groups representing all classes including teachers and university students, apart from cadres of the Guinea revolution. This is unlike Ghana, where many university students regard themselves as above the common people and will not like to be seen with them. This is because in Guinea, education is for service, not for privilege as in Ghana. It is expected that this lesson will not be lost on the leadership of the Ghana revolution so that the work of strengthening the political process by organizing the mass phase of the revolution will be given added impetus.

Accra Reports Togo Seizure of Arms Shipment

AB121855 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Togolese authorities are reported to have intercepted and turned away a ship carrying arms and ammunition to Ghanaian dissidents based in Togo. According to a broadcast by Radio Nigeria, the Togolese authorities have threatened to arrest any group of Ghanaian exiles holding meetings on Togolese territory.

GUINEA

Rawlings, Toure Extol Nkrumah's Role in History

AB120950 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, has renewed his suggestion for a common symbol in the national flags and common words in the anthems of all African countries to give expression to the common aspirations of the peoples of the continent.

Speaking in Conakry stadium, Guinea, where he paid a 7-hour working visit yesterday as guest of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the leader of the Ghana revolution said he is aware that the imperialist manipulators will try to prevent the implementation of this suggestion because they know it will deal a blow to their mental balkanization of Africa. He said if imperialism will not release its grip on Africa the reality of oppression is awakening the people to what he described as the signs of their situation.

In an apparent reference to the revolution in Ghana, Flight Lt Rawlings said a platform has been cut across the heart of the continent. Though we have suffered some setbacks, the day of reckoning is fast approaching, he said, adding: On 4 June 1979, we did not understand the signs of our situation, so we held elections and handed over, not knowing we were handing over our right to determine our destiny. (?He asked): Why should a country that was once led by a progressive intellectual like Dr Nkrumah have to be taken through a situation that called for an insurrection? Providing the answer to this question, the chairman said it is the evidence of the oppression that our people have had to go through.

He said the voice of suffering Ghana which was heard on 31 December 1981 represented the shattering of the culture of silence imposed on the people. Flight Lt Rawlings said Ghana has started restructuring the institutions to ensure full participation for its people in matters that affect their destiny. But there is a limit to what can be achieved where we remain balkanized. This is why Dr Nkrumah noted that true independence for Ghana depended on unity in Africa.

He asked: What is Africa doing to reverse the state of poverty of its people amidst its abundant resources? He added that in this connection a heavy responsibility rests on the leaders of Africa.

Our correspondent with the chairman on the visit notes that the name of Kwame Nkrumah and what he stood for in Africa kept resounding in the speeches of both Chairman Rawlings and his host, President Ahmed Sekou Toure. Flight Lt Rawlings described Nkrumah as being ahead of his compatriots in his ideas. He cautioned that it is necessary for leaders to carry their people along with them in their acceptance of ideas. Otherwise, he said, to be ahead of your people amounts to being behind them.

Chairman Rawlings said he felt at home on Guinea soil and he now understood why Dr Nkrumah chose Guinea as his home when he was overthrown in an imperialist-inspired coup in 1966.

Earlier, President Toure said the people of Guinea cherish the visit of the Ghanaian delegation because of the pioneering role played by Dr Nkrumah in African freedom and progress. Though Nkrumah is dead, he is one of those whose names are recorded in the minds of their people because of their fight for progress, he said. President Toure was full of praise for Nkrumah's stand that the independence of Ghana was not for Ghanaians only but for all people fighting to end colonial exploitation. He recalled his own visit to Ghana, his first contact with Dr Nkrumah, Nkrumah's own visit to Guinea and their discussions on the strategy for attaining African freedom.

On Nkrumah's contribution to the founding summit of the OAU in Addis Ababa in 1963, President Toure recalled that Nkrumah was regarded then as a dreamer, as a man in a hurry. He said Africa is the loser for this attitude. For example, he said Africa is poor because she does not determine the prices of her raw materials, while the prices at which she buys manufactured products are also determined elsewhere. He declared: We should affirm in our unity our objective for development.

He extended a special welcome to Chairman Rawlings, describing him as a hero, a man of principle who is fighting for the interest of your people and Africa. He said the people of Guinea have been following the course of events in Ghana and noted that with worthy comrades he is sure Ghana will be a shining example to all Africa. He declared that Guinea is sincerely nonaligned and that she is aligned only with Africa for the progress of the continent. On the recent earthquake in Guinea, President Toure expressed thanks to all countries that have sympathized with or extended help to his people. On this point Chairman Rawlings announced that the workers of Ghana have made individual contributions and that this will be presented to the victims.

Rawlings Departs 11 Jan

AB121730 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1615 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Ghanaian head of state Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, who arrived in Conakry on Wednesday morning, returned home the same day after a working visit to our country. During his visit, President Jerry John Rawlings held talks with his Guinean counterpart, President Ahmed Sekou Toure. He was seen off at the Conakry-Gbessia International Airport by the supreme servant of the people, President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

LIBERIA

PRC Member Tubman 'Indefinitely Suspended'

AB122145 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Three days after the head of state gave a mandate to the vice head of state, Major General Nicholas Podier, to dismiss any [People's Redemption] Council member found investigating cases in which they have no jurisdiction, a member of the Council has fallen victim. He is Major Joseph V. Tubman, who was indefinitely suspended from the Council today by vice head of state Podier.

The LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY says Maj Tubman was suspended for his involvement in investigating a matter of (?civil) nature. Speaking at his Capitol building office to the press today, Gen Podier said that Maj Tubman has from time to time investigated several matters at the Capitol building prior to the Liberian leader's statement that Council members should be dismissed if found engaging in such acts.

NIGERIA

Brig Idiagbon Reiterates Support for OAU, OPEC

AB121025 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Nigeria has reiterated her support for all issues that concern the interest of Africa. The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, gave the reassurance in Lagos today when he received in audience the Algerian minister of energy and petrochemical industries, Belkacem Nabi, at Dodan Barracks. Brig Idiagbon told the Algerian minister that Nigeria will continue to stand by the decision of the OAU on the Western Sahara and Chadian conflicts.

Earlier, Mr Nabi delivered a goodwill message from the Algerian leader, Chadli Bendjedid, wishing the new military administration success in its efforts to revive the Nigerian economy.

In another development, the chief of staff, Brig Tunde Idiagbon, said that Nigeria will support the proposal to form an informal association of petroleum exporting countries in Africa as long as the interest of such association did not conflict with that of the OPEC. Addressing an Algerian delegation at Dodan Barracks today, Brig Idiagbon pointed out that as a loyal member of OPEC, Nigeria could not be a party to any association whose aims and objectives run contrary to those of OPEC. The two sides, however, endorsed the need for the establishment of an African association of petroleum exporting countries.

Rice Bound for Chad Impounded by Maiduguri Customs

AB121124 Lagos NAN in English 1105 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Maiduguri, Jan 12 (NAN) — Seventeen trailers conveying relief materials of 11,400 bags of rice from Lagos to Chad Republic are being held by the men of Customs and Excise, Maiduguri, the acting area administrator of the department, Alhaji Omar Ajao, told newsmen in Maiduguri yesterday. The rice was said to have been imported from the United States by the World Food Programme.

Alhaji Omar said that the vehicles were being held in Maiduguri due to the closure of the borders so that rice might not be diverted from the country. He said that the department was awaiting

instruction from the Federal Military Government before the goods would be released.

The transit clerk, Ibikunle Samuel, of the Nigerian Logistics Ltd, Lagos, said that three of the 17 vehicles conveying the rice were yet to arrive in Maiduguri because they broke down on their way from Lagos.

He said that the goods had been cleared at the Apapa wharf but would require further clearance in Maiduguri before leaving for Chad.

Central Bank Explains Financial Restrictions

AB121110 Paris AFP in English 1013 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Lagos, Jan 12 (AFP) — Nigeria has slashed travel allowances and placed raw materials at the top of a priority list of imports as the new authorities try to detail the exact size of this country's foreign debt.

According to a circular from the Nigerian Central Bank to commercial banks operating here, Nigerian importers have been given up to January 23 to submit details of money owed to foreign suppliers up to the end of last year, when the military government seized power from President Shehu Shagari.

The circular also confirmed that commercial and merchant banks are to carry out foreign exchange transactions for the private sector and parastatals. Previously this was the sole responsibility of the Central Bank, which will henceforth operate only on behalf of the Federal Government and the governments of Nigeria's 19 states.

Imports have now been divided into seven categories, with raw materials at the top, followed by spare parts, essential foodstuffs, medical supplies, books and laboratory equipment, capital goods and, finally, other consumer items.

The circular also announced major cuts in the basic travel allowance from 500 naira (about 650 dollars) to 100 naira a year for private individuals. Business travel allowance has been suspended until further notice. Businessmen were previously entitled to 2,400 naira.

Money will no longer be available for overseas medical treatment without clearance by the top medical authorities, and allowances for studies abroad have also been halted, although students already on courses will be allowed to complete their studies.

Commercial and merchant banks will be allocated a foreign exchange ceiling based on previous operations, and the monthly transactions must not be greater than one-twelfth of the annual ceiling.

Banking sources said that the move was designed to give priority to private companies regarded as having generally respected the spirit of foreign exchange transactions and seek to eliminate dubious transfers. [sentence as received]

Banking sources here said that the Central Bank's move to obtain accurate figures on the payments backlog could be a preliminary to renewal of talks with Nigeria's overseas partners on rescheduling debts.

Bank Account Withdrawals Limited

AB122210 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Commercial banks in the country will no longer allow more than 5,000-naira cash withdrawals on personal accounts until further notice. A Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN] directive of 6 January has instructed managing directors of all commercial banks to advise the bank managers not to approve any withdrawal above that amount. It also urged chief executives of the banks to make details of withdrawals made on personal accounts from 2 January to the time the directive was received by the branches to the CBN's director of bank and supervisions.

Economic observers say the directive is part of measures to prevent those who amassed wealth through questionable means from having access to the money saved in the banks.

Former Ogun Governor Escorted to Lagos

AB120946 Calabar Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The former governor of Ogun, Chief Bisi Onabanjo, and his deputy, Chief Olusesan Soluade, were yesterday taken to Lagos under a tight military escort. A police source told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA that they were taken to Lagos in compliance with a military order.

Bank Accounts of Anambra Former Officials Frozen

AB121220 Calabar Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The bank accounts of all former federal and state political office holders from Anambra State have been frozen with immediate effect on the orders of the Federal Military Government. Those affected include all former governors and their deputies from 1979 to 1983. Others are all federal ministers, special advisers and special assistants to the former president from 1979 to 1983, as well as all state commissioners, special advisers to the state governors, special assistants to the state governors, chairmen and members of boards of federal and state parastatals. Others affected are all members of the national and state assemblies and the bank accounts of the six banned political parties.

SENEGAL

French Prime Minister Mauroy Arrives 11 Jan

AB120830 Paris AFP in English 0736 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Dakar, Jan 12 (AFP) — French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy arrived here Wednesday night for a four-day official visit to Senegal, his first to a black African state as prime

minister. He will confer this morning with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

Senegal, which French President Francois Mitterrand visited in May 1982, has retained especially close ties with its former colonial rulers since independence nearly 24 years ago.

Meets with Abdou Diouf

LD130934 Paris International Service in French 0800 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Solidarity between France and Senegal is more necessary than ever given the worsening of the world crisis. Money from France to Senegal will not cease, French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy said yesterday in Dakar, where he is on an official visit. He had discussions with President Abdou Diouf on the current conflicts in Africa, and bilateral relations. Paris and Dakar came to a very important agreement on the training of the Senegalese workers who have just been sacked from the Talbot auto factory at Poissy near Paris. Two hundred and six Senegalese workers are involved. This agreement anticipates France's taking over part of the cost of training the sacked workers. On the political level, relations between France and Senegal are excellent.

Communique on Maritime Border With Guinea-Bissau

AB121232 Dakar PANA in French 1112 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Government communique on the limits of the maritime border between Senegal and Guinea-Bissau]

[Text] Dakar, 12 Jan (APS-SENEGAL/PANA) — By virtue of an agreement concluded between the French Government and the Portuguese Government through an exchange of letters on 26 April 1960, the lines marking the limits of the maritime border between the territories of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau have been fixed at parallel 240 beginning from Cape Roxo.

This border was therefore inherited from the colonial power at the time of Senegal's accession to international sovereignty on 20 August 1960.

In 1978, a few years after its independence, Guinea-Bissau challenged the validity of the French-Portuguese treaty of 1960 and called for the modification of this border. Following contacts between their respective governments, the two countries decided to submit this matter to international arbitration and took necessary measures in this regard.

The arbitration procedure is now in progress. It has led Guinea-Bissau to propose to Senegal a draft arbitration compromise in conformity with the usual practice and Senegal is now preparing a reply to the Guinea-Bissau proposal.

It is obvious that the proposals contained in either of the compromise solutions can be binding only after they have been accepted by both parties. It is only at this stage that the final text of the arbitration compromise can become binding on the two parties.

The signing of the final text of the arbitration compromise by both parties is the formality that will confirm the agreement marking the effective beginning of the implementation of the procedure of international arbitration. In these conditions, the draft arbitration compromise — a mere unilateral act — proposedby Guinea-Bissau cannot alone be considered an agreement the nonapplication of which would constitute the violation of a right it claims to have in this zone.

Pending the settlement of this matter in accordance with the procedure accepted by both parties, Senegal — which inherited the maritime zone in question at the time of its accession to independence — feels that it is entitled to continue to exercise its sovereignty over it in accordance with international law, the pertinent provisions of the UN Charter, and the resolution of the OAU adopted in 1964 which laid down the principle of the intangibility of borders inherited from the colonial powers.

In this connection, the Republic of Senegal wishes to continue to maintain relations of good neighborliness with the sister Republic of Guinea-Bissau as it has been doing for many years now within the framework of a policy of exchanges of ideas and of solidarity arising from the community of interests between the two countries and the numerous ties existing between the two peoples.

Seven More 'Mercenaries' Reportedly Arrested

AB112110 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Dakar, Jan 11 (AFP) — Seven more so-called mercenaries, allegedly recruited to carry out acts of destabilisation in Guinea-Conakry, were arrested last Sunday at Kolda, southern Senegal, the Senegalese daily *LE SOLEIL* reported today.

On Monday the newspaper reported that a group of 20 mercenaries — 15 from Guinea-Bissau, two Senegalese, and three recruiting agents from Guinea-Conakry — were arrested at Kolda last week.

No details of the nationality of the seven arrested Sunday, nor of the circumstances of the event, were given.

According to inquiries by the Senegalese gendarmerie, the mercenaries were preparing to leave Senegal for a training camp "in a west African country", identified by various sources as Ivory Coast.

Following the first arrests, Senegalese Armed Forces Minister Medoune Fall went to Conakry to inform President Ahmed Sekou Toure of the affair, an official source said.

Diouf's Reasons Not To Visit Casamance Explained

AB121100 Dakar PANA in French 1505 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Dakar, 11 Jan (APS-SENEGAL/PANA) — A massive rally in support of the president of the Republic, which will be remembered for a long time, was organized in Ziguinchor last Sunday by the people of Casamance, who thus confirmed their oath of allegiance to the head of state following the events of 18 December.

A leader of the opposition asked why President Abdou Diouf did not go to Ziguinchor after the events, as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher went to Ireland and President Francois Mitterrand to Corsica.

Questioned on this issue at the end of the cabinet meeting yesterday, government spokesman Djibo Ka said that the issue was not brought up at the cabinet meeting and told the SENEGALESE PRESS AGENCY that the government has noted with satisfaction that the people of Casamance, made up of so many ethnic groups and political parties, through this meeting showed not only their opposition to any subversive moves, but above all their support for President Abdou Diouf, as well as their solidarity with the head of state in his determination and his unflinching desire to preserve national unity and the territorial integrity of our country.

After stressing that the entire Senegalese population is in solidarity with the president of the Republic on this important issue, the minister of information said he felt that it was bad to compare Ireland and Corsica with what happened in a localized part of the Casamance region. After all, Djibo Ka said, President Abdou Diouf has, in less than 3 years as head of state, visited the eight regions of the country, and on each occasion he received an unprecedented welcome. As proof of this, the government spokesman pointed out, it may be recalled that in February 1983, barely 2 months after the events of 26 December 1982 in Ziguinchor, President Abdou Diouf visited all the districts of Casamance everywhere, and especially in Ziguinchor itself, the head of state was accorded a triumphal welcome from the people whose attachment to him has remained deeply rooted.

It is for this reason that the saying "comparison is no justification" assumes all its significance, noted the minister of information, who added that President Abdou Diouf visits the regions of his country each time that the need arises. Concerning this particular case, he assumed all his responsibilities as usual with the support of the whole country.

SIERRA LEONE

Police on Patrol Following Unrest in Freetown

AB121755 Paris AFP in French 1742 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Freetown, 12 Jan (AFP) — Sierra Leonean police conducted armed patrols on Thursday in the streets of Freetown following disturbances that occurred in two sectors of the town during the speech being made by President Siaka Stevens at the eighth congress of the All People's Congress, APC.

There were gunshots but it is not known whether there were any victims. The incidents began when some youths stoned cars parked near the Congress Hall, where the head of state was addressing 400 APC delegates in his capacity as secretary general.

In fact, most of Siaka Stevens' speech was on the restoration of law and order in four regions, namely Pujehun, Koinadugu, Bombali and Moyamba, which, according to him, was made possible through the efforts of the police and the Army.

Students Teargassed

AB121832 Paris AFP in English 1825 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Freetown, Jan 12 (AFP) — Armed police were patrolling the streets of Freetown today in the wake of looting, amid widespread disorders in Sierra Leone, while President Siaka Stevens was addressing a conference of the country's sole legal political party.

Trouble broke out soon after the opening of the conference, which backed a call from Mr Stevens for the maintenance of law and order throughout the country, and he devoted a large part of his report on the need for law and order. The president spoke of a breakdown of law and order in the Pujehun, Koinadugu, Bombali and Moyamba regions of the west African state, adding that through the hard work of the police and the Army, "peace has now been restored in those areas". He also said the experience showed the police force was seriously understaffed. "We must be prepared to find the money and increase the police," he said.

The opening session of the conference had gone smoothly and hardly anyone was aware of the disturbances until the president ended his report, by which time police had opened up with teargas against the troublemakers, reports said. The reports said that students at Fourah Bay College, who last October frog-marched college heads two miles (3.5 kms) to the president's office in an earlier protest, had hijacked three buses to their campus.

This was [words indistinct] to have been in protest against the alleged failure of the government to keep a promise to give the students a minibus after the October demonstration. Others joined in the student protest, throwing stones at the police and looting in the west end and central parts of Freetown, the reports said.

Fourah Bay College Closed

AB130742 Paris AFP in English 0731 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Freetown, Jan 13 (AFP) — The Sierra Leone Government last night announced the closure of Fourah Bay College until further notice following Thursday's demonstrations while the ruling party was holding its eighth national delegates conference here.

All 1,161 resident students of a total of 1,661 students enrolled have been ordered to vacate the campus of what is known as Africa's oldest university south of the Sahara with immediate effect. Apart from local students, there are others from Cameroon, Nigeria, North America, Guinea and Zimbabwe.

In a statement on radio and television, the government blamed the students for demonstrations which sparked off disturbances

during which vehicles were destroyed and several people injured. The students also hijacked five road transport corporation buses.

The government statement recalled that last October, students of Fourah Bay College force-marched the vice-chancellor of the university, the principal of Fourah College and the senior warden to Freetown from the college campus.

"There was evidence to the effect that the college authorities were physically assaulted by the students," the statement said. "These authorities arrived at State House in an exhausted and haggard condition. Among other things, the students seized a road transport bus. The matter is still under investigation."

The statement continued: "Today the students of Fourah Bay College, following a meeting held at 1 am on the campus, for reasons best known to themselves, once again organized a demonstration into the city.

"In the course of these demonstrations, the students, as in the previous case, seized five mini-buses belonging to the Road Transport Corporation, looted a number of shops, and maliciously destroyed other vehicles owned by private individuals.

"This seizure, wanton destruction of property and total disregard for law and order can no longer be tolerated. There is a laid-down procedure for redress of grievances and no one has the right to take the law into his own hands."

The government statement added: "It is worth mentioning that only three weeks ago, maintenance and other allowances of students were increased."

TOGO

President Eyadema Delivers Liberation Day Address

[Editorial Report] Lome Domestic Service in French at 1900 GMT on 12 January 1984 carries an address by President Eyadema to the nation on the occasion of the 17th National Liberation Day. The president begins his address by saying that National Liberation Day is an opportunity to take stock of the past year. He recalls that a year ago, he asked the Togolese people to reflect on ways to further progress. "Our emotions have enabled us to forge our unity," he says. "On the occasion of the 17th anniversary, I call on you again to reflect." He says with the year that has just ended, a new page has been turned and that 1983 was one of the hardest in the battle for economic emancipation. He adds that the people have continued to feel the effects of the current recession such as inflation, unemployment, and the sharp increase in the value of the dollar. He says the country's external debts have doubled because of this increase. He calls on everyone to participate in the effort to face the current economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by the effects of the drought, and asks the people to cultivate a spirit of solidarity, adding: "The watchword of all militants must be vigilance in order to drive away the spectrum of hunger." He contends that the measures he took a year ago to face the situation have yielded good results and calls on the people to continue working in this direction. He calls on the officials to be rigorous and stresses that "the state cannot assist parastatals that cannot be self-sufficient." "We must also put an end to waste and be disciplined in regard to what we spend." He expresses the hope that the new fiscal law will help augment the state's resources.

Eyadema says the Togolese have ended their internal wranglings and that "national unity has been achieved and has become a reality." He says the peaceful atmosphere in the country must be preserved and that "we must become vigilant" to maintain it. "Those who want to jeopardize the peace and stability of Togo should know that this peace and stability is the will of the people." He points out that in some parts of Africa this peaceful atmosphere does not exist. He calls on the people of Chad and the Horn of Africa to seek peace and settle their differences.

Eyadema denounces the current situation in South Africa, "where the people are denied their rights." He expresses the hope that the Conakry summit will be conciliatory and condemns "those who are giving Lebanon the means to destroy itself." He recalls the sufferings of poor people in the world and says that the means for perpetrating wars could be used to feed the hungry people of the world.

In conclusion, Eyadema says, "I have decided that our brave farmers will continue to be exempted from paying income taxes. This is to encourage them for the sacrifices they have always made."

Egypt's Ghali Brings Eyadema Mubarak Letter

NC130710 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] President Eyadema of Togo has received a letter from President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations, the international situation, and African issues.

The letter was handed to him by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, at an audience that Dr Ghali was given by President Eyadema last night.

Dr Butrus Ghali stated after the meeting that President Eyadema praised President Mubarak, and he also lauded the role that Egypt plays in the area.

Eyadema Receives Visiting DPRK Delegation

AB121515 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People, this morning received a DPRK delegation led by Chong Chun-ki, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party and DPRK vice premier. Chong Chun-ki told the press that he conveyed the greetings of the Korean people to the Togolese people and their president, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema.

Further Details

AB110720 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Festivities marking the celebration of National Liberation Day on Friday begins today with the inauguration of the party school in Lome. In the framework of this inauguration, a three-man DPRK delegation arrived in Lome yesterday afternoon for an official visit to Togo at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT]. The Korean delegation is led by Chong Chun-ki, condidate member of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] and vice premier of the DPRK. It includes (Yom Ki-sun) and Choe Ki-kyu, head of a bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier respectively.

After the welcoming ceremonies, the leader of the delegation disclosed to the press that his delegation has come to Togo to participate in the festivities marking the celebration of National Liberation Day at the invitation of the RPT Central Committee.

He then expressed his happiness and that of the members of his delegation to respond to the invitation which falls within the framework of the strengthening of the friendly relations between the Korean and Togolese peoples in general, and between Presidents Kim Il-song and Eyadema in particular. Talking about the policy of our country, the leader of the Korean delegation said that our government, under the banner of the RPT and especially under the perspicacious leadership of General Gnassingbe Eyadema, its founding chairman, has won great success in the establishment of national unity, which made possible the emergence of a new society in Togo. He then expressed satisfaction over the friendship between the WPK and the RPT on the one hand, and between the Togolese people and the Korean people on the other hand.

Chong Chun-ki further said that the presence of the Korean officials in Togo and their participation in the celebration of the 17th anniversary of our liberation aims at strengthening the friendship between the Togolese and the Korean peoples.

Tanzania's Mramba Notes SADCC International Role

MB121400 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Tanzanian minister of industry, Comrade Basil Mramba, says the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, will not interfere in the internal affairs of its member states. Comrade Mramba was speaking at a reception in Harare last night following the SADCC workshop. He added that all member states have agreed that there should be a reduction of their dependence on racist South Africa.

Commenting on the workshop, he said the proceedings had shown progress in the practical utilization of commitments on cooperation in both developed and developing countries.

ANGOLA

Sierra Leone, Canada, GDR Criticism of RSA Noted

AB120740 Luanda ANGOP in French 1250 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Luanda, 11 Jan (ANGOP) — The international community, which is concerned about peace and social progress, continues to show its strong indignation by condemning the aggressions launched since 14 December 1983 by South Africa's regular army against defenseless people and the Angolan Armed Forces in the Cuvelai and Cahama areas of Cunene Province, and at Kuando Kubango, Mulondo, and Cassinga in Huila Province in southern Angola.

In this regard, Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens stated that disregarding the terms of international law, racist South Africa systematically violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighboring countries. President Siaka Stevens, who was addressing the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Freetown, condemned South Africa's military aggression against Angola and the continued occupation of southern Angola by the troops of the apartheid regime.

Florence Elizabeth Maleka, a member of the Executive Committee of the Women's Organization of the ANC and its representative in Luanda, said that the situation in southern Africa suddenly worsened following renewed racist South African aggressions against Angola. She affirmed: "We the women, like all the progressive peoples of the planet, vehemently condemn the crimes of the aggressors who are supported by international imperialism, especially the United States, which is currently playing the role of an international gendarme and oppressor of liberty and democracy."

Maleka further remarked that racist Pretoria has again launched new aggressions today against Angola under a false pretext. She concluded by saying that the inhuman apartheid regime must be eliminated, and invited the women of the world to double their efforts in the struggle against racism.

For its part, the GDR Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), in a statement issued Monday in Berlin, also condemned the racist South African aggression against Angola. It expressed the view that the criminal attacks by Pretoria's regular armed forces against peaceful areas in Angola and the assassination of old people, women, and children provoke the anger and the indignation of the whole world.

The GDR women are of the opinion that the South African regime's acts of aggression and piracy and its intention to dominate southern Africa are linked with the aggressive policies of the U.S. Administration.

After comparing the barbarous South African invasion of Angola with the U.S. aggression against Lebanon, the WDIF called for an immediate end to the bloody crimes and for the withdrawal of the racist troops from Angola. It reaffirmed its solidarity with the women of Angola, who are currently experiencing difficult moments for the sake of their country.

The Canadian Government fully supports the resolution of the UN Security Council calling for the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, Canadian External Affairs Minister Allan Joseph MacEachen affirmed. Within the same context, MacEachen, whose country is a member of the Western Contact Group on Namibia, called on the South African authorities to put an immediate end to their occupation of southern Angola; he then stressed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent countries of southern Africa.

RSA Withdrawal Rationale Attempt To Hide 'Defeat'

MB121508 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] It has been a month since the South African Army launched yet another large-scale invasion against Angolan territory to try to widen its areas of occupation from Cunene. The operations, which have been launched with the support of 3 motorized brigades, 4 artillery groups, 2 paratroop battalions, about 100 airplanes and helicopters, and AML-90, AML-60 and MX armored vehicles, have been justified by South Africa as punitive operations against SWAPO.

It has been a month since these operations began, and because of international pressure and the prompt response of the Angolan combatants South Africa has announced the beginning of the withdrawal of its troops from the combat zones in southern Angola. At the same time it has alleged that it has achieved its goals as far as SWAPO is concerned.

South African radio, monitored in Luanda, has hypocritically reported that SWAPO's logistic and support installations have been destroyed in southern Angola and that the so-called terrorists are fleeing toward the northern part of southern Angola. Such statements are nothing but excuses so that South Africa would not be regarded as a defeated country when it announced the withdrawal of its troops from Angola, since it is known that SWAPO's logistics installations are not to be found inside hospitals and schools that have been destroyed in Cuvelai, Cahama, Mulondo, Cassinga, and Caiundo. Public opinion knows that the so-called SWAPO terrorists are nothing but Namibian refugees who have fled from the apartheid terror, as well as defenseless Angolan residents who wish to build their houses, and farms and want peace.

The war materiel that has been used by South Africa in Angola cannot justify the pursuit of guerrilla forces, since we know that this type of equipment is used by armies in modern warfare. The racist South African Army has been using unconventional weapons such as fragmentation bombs, toxic and paralyzing gas, and (?weapons) capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo Reports Talks To Start Friday With RSA

MB131000 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Mozambique and South African Government delegations meet in Maputo today for talks on tourism. Three other delegations from each country will discuss issues relating to security, economic relations, and the Cahora Bassa dam starting next Monday in Maputo and in Pretoria. The holding of these talks was decided upon at the last meeting between the two countries on 20 December last year in Swaziland.

A Mozambique Government source told AIM that the talks are within the context of the implementation of our government's policy of peace and cooperation. The source added that they could represent an important step toward settling tensions in southern Africa. The talks are in the context of the same principles and same objectives announced by President Samora Machel in Bissau and reaffirmed in his New Year's message to the diplomatic corps accredited to Maputo, the same source added.

On 20 December last year speaking in Bissau, President Samora Machel announced that the talks, which were being held on that day in Swaziland, were based on concrete positions taken by Mozambique. At that time Samora Machel stressed that Mozambique will recognize neither apartheid nor the bantustans and will not stop supporting the ANC politically, diplomatically, and morally. The Mozambique president also reaffirmed the need for South Africa to cease destabilizing Mozambique through the armed bandits. Neither side must attack the other, President Samora Machel said in Bissau.

Increase Seen in Surrendering of 'Armed Bandits'

MB130834 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The number of bandits who surrendered to the Mozambican authorities with their weapons has significantly increased in the last 3 months. A source close to the Army told Mozambique Radio that this was due mainly to the offensive mounted by the Mozambique Armed Forces in all the provinces affected by banditry. Accordingly, during last year and particularly from September, our Armed Forces have progressively been occupying the forest and thus reducing the enemy's field of maneuver. It is worth noting that in recent days a number of armed bandits' bases have been destroyed by our forces in different parts of the country.

SOUTH AFRICA

Delegates Named for Talks With Mozambique

MB130808 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The first talks between South African and Mozambique working groups since the announcement by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, earlier this week of a cooperation agreement will take place in the Mozambique capital Maputo today. The South African group on tourism under the leadership of the chairman of the Tourism Board, Mr Danie Hough, arrives in Maputo this morning. At this stage it is not yet certain how long the talks will last.

On Monday the groups on security will meet in Pretoria. The leader of the South African delegation to these talks will be the commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee. On the same day, two other South African working groups will have talks in Maputo with corresponding Mozambique groups. They are the working group on economic affairs, under the leadership of the director general of foreign affairs, Mr Van Dalsen, and a working group under the leadership of the director general of mineral and energy affairs, Dr du Plessis, which will discuss the future of the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme.

The cooperation agreement and the talks are a direct result of a joint meeting of South African and Mozambique cabinet ministers in Swaziland last month. Our political staff reports that details of today's and next week's talks with Mozambique will probably not come from the South African side until such time as the group leaders have had the opportunity to report back to their ministers, and until the cabinet has had the chance to discuss them.

Shultz, TASS Cited on RSA Angolan Withdrawal

MB130804 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] In Washington the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, has said that it is clearly necessary for Cuba to withdraw its forces from Angola to obtain South Africa's cooperation in granting independence to South-West Africa.

Mr Shultz said at a news conference that he hoped that South Africa's unilateral withdrawal from Angola was one of those signs and actions that could, as he put it, lead others to do something. Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency TASS reports from Moscow that the Soviet Union and Cuba are to help Angola to strengthen its defense capabilities and to retain its independence and territorial integrity.

New Indian Political Party To Oppose Elections

MB112030 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 11 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Members of the Indian business community, the President's Council and the South African Indian Council

[SAIC] will launch a new political party in Durban on January 21 to fight the coming Parliamentary elections.

The new party, not yet named, could signal also the return to politics of Mr J.N. Reddy, the former SAIC chairman. He confirmed yesterday that he had been invited to the launching.

Others known to be involved include Mr Ismael Kathrada, a businessman and PC member, Mr Pat Poovalingham, a businessman, lawyer and former PC member, Mr Abraam Saleem Mayet, an East Rand businessman, and Mr M. Rajab and Mr R.I. Devan, both SAIC members.

Those who could be contacted yesterday confirmed that the formation of a party was being discussed, but would not give details. Sources close to the party, however, said daily discussions have been taking place for some time.

The new party is being formed by Indians unhappy with the present leadership in the community. It will enter the new parliamentary system because "it is the only avenue we have to operate democratically and non-violently," a source said.

It will fight for the inclusion of blacks, and aim for "a non-racial society in which neither race, class, colour, caste or religion will be a political factor." It will also be committed to non-violence and the democratic process, the source said.

It views itself as a moderate because it includes "neither the left wing nor the right wing" and it will oppose the National People's Party of Mr Amichand Rajbansi, the present SAIC chairman.

SWAZILAND

Envoy Says Israeli President To Visit Country

MB121928 Mbabane Television Service in English 1630 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Israeli ambassador in Mbabane has confirmed reports from Jerusalem that the Israeli president, Mr Herzog, will be visiting Swaziland during the course of this year. Mr Meir Joffer said the president, who will be visiting Zaire and Liberia later this month, had postponed until later this year his visit to Swaziland, which would have formed part of his visit to the other two countries. Reports from Jerusalem say that Mr Herzog will spend 5 days in Zaire as the guest of President Mobutu Sese Seko. The presidential spokesman said in Jerusalem that the trip would enable the two countries to deepen the profound links of friendship that exist between them. He said Mr Herzog would then proceed to Liberia for a 3-day visit.

Most of black Africa severed diplomatic ties with Israel after the 1973 Middle East War, but Zaire restored them in 1982 and Liberia followed last year.

ZAMBIA

U.S. Offer To Mediate RSA-Angola Conflict Assailed

MB121212 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 29 Dec 83 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] The United States "offer" announced in Washington yesterday by State Department spokesman John Hughes to help efforts for a disengagement of South African and Angolan forces now locked in battle inside Angola does not fool anybody, least of all the African states and their friends.

It is the usual double talk which comes from Washington every time their "old-time ally" attacks Angola, and the latest "concern" expressed by the Reagan administration at the intensified fighting is devoid of any commitment to bringing genuine peace to this region.

The American Administration has publicly declared that it has no intention of changing its stand on the Namibian independence issue even if it is condemned internationally.

On the other hand, the international community has agreed that the only lasting solution to this problem is the granting of independence to the former German colony and the withdrawal of racist troops from occupied southern Angola.

But the Americans and the South Africans have imposed conditions on this by demanding that Namibia's independence should be linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, knowing very well that this is unacceptable.

The demand is simply designed to delay Namibia's independence, prolong the fighting and occupation of Angola by racist troops.

The claim by the U.S. now that it is "willing to aid the disengagement process in any way it could" is hard to believe when the administration has, in fact, rejected the only means available: Let South Africa grant Namibia independence, quit Angola and stop supporting dissident groups in southern Africa.

Had the Americans really meant what they have been saying all this time, Zambia would not have had to shelter thousands of refugees now fleeing Angola because of intensified attacks by South Africa.

President Kaunda has repeatedly told the world in general and the Americans in particular that if the Namibian problem was not solved and apartheid inside South Africa eliminated, the situation in southern Africa would make the French Revolution look like a children's picnic once it exploded.

It is not true that America on her own cannot influence the outcome of the prolonged negotiations over Namibia's independence, as some US officials claim.

The Pretoria regime depends on the support from America and other allies to continue its illegal occupation of Namibia and Angola.

It is, therefore, obvious that if Washington is really concerned about the fighting in Angola and Namibia's freedom, it has only to ditch South Africa.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Touts Advantages of 1-Party State

MB130727 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says a 1-party state which takes other parties into account creates a better democracy than a multi-party system. In an interview with *THE HERALD* yesterday, Comrade Mugabe stressed that a properly run 1-party state should represent the community and take other parties and people into account. He said if the Central Committee of the umbrella organization reflects these interests, then the state would allow people a high degree of choice.

Comrade Mugabe also said the Public Service Commission, PSC, has already completed an exercise to reduce the number of permanent secretaries in the ministries which were combined in the recent reshuffle. At present, the PSC is working on an exercise to reduce and reassign civil servants, from deputy secretaries downwards, in order to cut down expenditure.

Arms Embargo Against Frontline States Decried

MB130743 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Research conducted by the World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration With South Africa shows that Western countries operate a more effective arms embargo against the Frontline States than against the Pretoria regime. In an interview with ZIANA, the director of the campaign, Mr (Abdul Samad Minti), says the Frontline States are often denied arms by Western countries on the grounds that it is against their policy to supply arms to areas of conflict. Mr (Minti) said this was recently confirmed by the Zambian Government, which tried to buy arms from Western countries.

He said the United States and other major Western powers use the argument that South Africa is of strategic importance to the West, particularly in relation to the Cape sea route. Mr (Minti) said this dependence on the racist state as part of the overall Western defense system has very serious implications, not only for the Frontline States, but for all of independent Africa.

He said the tendency of the West to depend on South Africa was demonstrated by the fact that Britain is now constructing a military base in the Falkland Islands, using South Africa as a staging post. Mr (Minti) said there is no doubt that South Africa has a nuclear weapon capability and this, coupled with its conventional arms build-up, poses the greatest single threat to international peace and security.